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The KINGBIRD

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Front Cover – Western Kingbird, Springville, *Erie*, 24 Oct, 2018, © Jim Pawlicki.

Back Cover – Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, New Scotland, *Albany*, 17 Oct 2018, © Sue Barth.

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2015

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter “NYSARC” or the “Committee”) reviewed 70 occurrences of review species involving 113 separate submissions from 2015 and seven occurrences from previous years involving seven submissions. Nine of the 70 occurrences in 2015, involving 16 submissions, were of potential first state records. Reports were received from 25 of the 62 counties plus the pelagic region. The number of reports accompanied by photographs, audio, and video remains high and, naturally, benefits the value of the archive. The Committee wishes to remind readers that reports submitted to listservs, local bird clubs, rare bird alerts (RBAs) and even *The Kingbird* Regional Editors are not necessarily passed along to NYSARC. Doing so, therefore, remains the responsibility of the observer(s). The growing use of the Internet and mobile phones, as well as eBird, has had a very positive impact on the timely dissemination of rare bird sightings and has made it easier for birders to locate rarities found by others. The Committee has always held that receipt of multiple independent reports provides a much fuller documentation of the sighting and can in some cases increase the likelihood of acceptance. We therefore urge ALL observers, not just the finder, to submit written reports and/or photographs. The names of the 92 contributors that submitted materials (written reports, photographs, audio, video, and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of this document. Where possible, the name(s) of the original finder(s) is (are) included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort. In addition to the contributors referenced above, several *Kingbird* Regional Editors have helped observers to prepare and submit documentation. A special thanks goes to Mike Morgante (Region 1 Editor) for forwarding important documentation.

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the NYSOA web site: <http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/index.htm>

Here, a list of species requested for review by NYSARC (The Review List) is provided along with illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Web Master) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to five digital image files. Documentation (written reports and photographs) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email to NYSARC secretary, Gary Chapin, at: nysarc44@nybirds.org. As a last resort, you can also use regular mail to get your report to Gary:

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HIGHLIGHTS

It seems almost inconceivable, but for the second consecutive year, four new species were added to the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*: Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*), Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), and Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*). As of the end of 2015, this brings the State list up to 493 species. [Note: subsequent to 2015, additions of Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*) and Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), as well as the 2017 demotion of Thayer's Gull (*Larus glaucopterus thayeri*) to subspecific status, elevates the State list currently to 494, with NYSARC still to vote on other potential additions.] Although not a new species, New York's first record of "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*) was found in 2003 but only recently identified. A year after the first record, we added the second Fea's Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*), and two years after the first Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasiliensis*), we added three more records. A few other highlights were an inland Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans*), a very famous Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), and a large influx of Franklin's Gulls (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*).

COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2015 annual meeting was held via Skype on 23 Sep 2018. As with the 2014 annual meeting, this meeting was held only six months after the previous one, as we continue to make progress on our backlog, essentially completing one year of records review in half the time. Note that the annual meeting year refers to the latest reports reviewed at that meeting. For example, at the 2015 annual meeting we mainly reviewed reports of birds seen in 2015, along with a few reports from earlier years. During the annual meeting we discussed or completed the voting for some 20 or so records. We also decided to review prior Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) records in the State and vote on the subspecies. In the past the Committee has, for the most part, voted only on the species and ignored the subspecies, but since the Mew Gull subspecies are fairly well differentiated, the Committee decided that this would be a worthwhile task. The Committee discussed some of the procedures that will be needed in order to incorporate review of eBird records, and we are moving closer to that goal. Changes to the review list were discussed, and it was decided that none were needed at this time. The terms of Andy Guthrie, Doug Gochfeld and Derek Rogers expired at the end of 2018. Doug and Derek agreed to continue on the Committee, and both accepted another three-year term. After many years of service, Andy Guthrie opted to step down and give someone else an opportunity. Andy has been a stalwart on the

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Committee since 2005. His take on difficult reviews has been extremely practical, well thought out, and his arguments very persuasive. This same mindset has been brought to bear on all other Committee matters as well. In short, Andy has been an invaluable member of NYSARC, and we will miss him. Jay McGowan has big shoes to fill, but he was the clear choice of the Committee to replace Andy, and we are pleased that Jay has accepted and that he has been approved by the NYSOA Board. As of this writing (Mar 2019), Jay is already fully involved in Committee activities.

NOTE: In the reports accepted, listed below, the range of dates for a record may not be known based only on the submitted material. Accepted eBird reports may extend the known range of dates and if the NYSARC also finds these reports acceptable, the eBird range of dates are listed along with the NYSARC record submission.

2015 Reports Accepted

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

2015-27-A One, Wilson Tuscarora State Park, **Niagara**, 3 Jun (Christopher Kundl, ph C. Kundl). eBird 2 Jun-19 Jul

2015-38-A/B Two, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 21 Jul (Brent Bomkamp, Pat Palladino, ph B. Bomkamp)

A local photographer, Charlie Horton, was at one of his most frequently watched patches, the mouth of Twelve Mile Creek in Wilson-Tuscarora State Park, when he discovered this Black-bellied Whistling-Duck on 28 May. Although the word did not get out to birders until 2 Jun, the bird stuck around for several weeks, allowing almost everyone who desired to a chance to go and see it. The late Chris Kundl documented the record for NYSARC. The two birds at Nickerson Beach were discovered by a park employee and were only seen on the one day, 21 Jul.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

2015-1-A/B One, Riverhead Sod Farms, **Suffolk**, 3, 11 Jan (Angus Wilson, Willie D'Anna, ph John Shemilt, W. D'Anna). eBird 1 Jan-28 Feb

The large flocks of Canada Geese (*A. canadensis*) in the Riverhead area of Eastern Long Island continue to attract one or more Pink-footed Geese most winters. This bird stayed around at least two months. A sighting in the area on 9 Nov 2014 (eBird) could have been the same individual, but it would seem unusual that it could escape detection until the following New Year's Day.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2015-61-A/B One, Oswego, **Oswego**, 16 Dec (Kevin McGann, Bill Purcell, ph K. McGann, B. Purcell). eBird 16, 17, 20 Dec

This Western Grebe at Oswego Harbor was discovered by Gregg Dashnau on 16 Dec and was seen by a small group of birders during its brief stay in the area.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

2015-58-A One, Pelham Bay Park, **Bronx**, 23 Nov (Richard Aracil, ph R. Aracil)

Richard Aracil found and documented this record for NYSARC. Like many others of this species in the State, this individual did not linger beyond the day of its discovery. This appears to represent the first record for the Bronx.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

2015-42-A/B One, Fort Jackson, **St. Lawrence**, 23 Jul (Nick Leone, Eileen Wheeler, ph E. Wheeler)

Eileen Cardinal found this adult male Rufous Hummingbird at her feeding station on 22 Jul, and she contacted Jeff Bolsinger, who in turn contacted Nick Leone and Eileen Wheeler. Leone and Wheeler were able to see the bird the following day, and they documented the sighting for NYSARC. The bird was only seen on those two days.

Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans*)

2015-32-A One, Great Vly WMA, **Ulster**, 26 Apr (Steve M. Chorvas, ph S. Chorvas). eBird 26, 28 Apr

This record represents a very rare sighting of an inland Clapper Rail in New York and at a site where a King Rail (*R. elegans*) had been documented only two years prior (D'Anna *et al.* 2017b). It provided excellent views alongside a much smaller Virginia Rail (*R. limicola*). It was not reported after 28 Apr.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

2015-23-A One, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 16-17 May (David Eib, ph D. Eib) This female/faeder male Ruff was discovered by David Eib, Seth Wollney and Maya Shikhman and provided what is believed to be the first record for Staten Island. The bird stayed for just two days.

South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)

2015-31-A/B Three, Southwest of Hudson Canyon, **Pelagic**, 1 Jun (Sean Sime, Doug Gochfeld, ph S. Sime, D. Gochfeld)

2015-35-A One, Pelagic waters of Suffolk County, **Pelagic**, 1 Jun (Doug Gochfeld, ph D. Gochfeld)

Certainly, one of the highlights of the See Life Paulagics pelagic trip out of Brooklyn on 1 Jun was these four South Polar Skuas. Three were seen together (2015-31) and the fourth (2015-35) was found in much shallower water.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

2015-33-A/B One, Breezy Point, **Queens**, 18 Jun (Doug Gochfeld, Sean Sime) Near the end of a long seawatch, this adult Long-tailed Jaeger came into view from the east and flew westerly past Doug Gochfeld and Sean Sime. They studied it carefully in their scopes, and although photos of this distant bird were

attempted, the observers were stymied in that effort. Nevertheless, the Committee was convinced by the two thorough reports provided by these very experienced seawatchers.

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*)

2015-2-A One, Jones Beach, **Nassau**, 11 Jan (Seth Ausubel)

Seth Ausubel discovered this Common Murre in basic plumage at Jones Beach State Park and watched it until it drifted far to the east of him. Only a few other birders were able to see the murre that morning.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*)

2015-6-A One, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 20, 21 Jan (Michael S. Scheibel, ph M. Scheibel). eBird 20-23 Jan

2015-9-A One, Coney Island, **Kings**, 12 Feb (Shane Blodgett, ph S. Blodgett)

Michael Scheibel discovered the basic plumaged Thick-billed Murre at Lake Montauk inlet. The bird stayed in the area for a few days, allowing a handful of other birders to see it. The Coney Island bird was found by Shane Blodgett and was only observed by a couple of other birders, not being found on subsequent days.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)

2015-34-A/B One, Breezy Point, **Queens**, 18 Jun (Doug Gochfeld, Sean Sime, ph D. Gochfeld, S. Sime)

2015-57-A One, East Quogue, **Suffolk**, 22 Nov (Seth Ausubel)

While spending several hours at Breezy Point, conducting a productive seawatch and studying the birds attracted to the tern colony, Gochfeld and Sime found a molting Sabine's Gull resting on the beach. This appears to be just the second record for New York City, with the only prior record occurring 14 Oct 1926 in Brooklyn (Bull 1964). The bird in East Quogue was found by Seth Ausubel and watched as it flew past over the ocean. It was an adult in basic plumage.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

2015-21-A One, Rochester, **Monroe**, 7 May (Ethan Gyllenhaal)

2015-53-A/C One, Venetian Shores Park, **Suffolk**, 13 Nov (Peter Morris, Brent Bomkamp, Seymour (Sy) Schiff/Joseph Giunta, ph P. Morris, S. Schiff)

2015-54-A Six, Derby Hill, **Oswego**, 13 Nov (Bill Purcell). eBird 13-14 Nov

2015-67-A Two, Captree State Park, **Suffolk**, 13 Nov (Seymour (Sy) Schiff/Joseph Giunta, ph S. Schiff)

2015-68-A One, Point Lookout, **Nassau**, 13 Nov (Seymour (Sy) Schiff/Joseph Giunta, ph S. Schiff)

2015-69-A Two, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 13 Nov (Pat Palladino, ph P. Palladino)

Franklin's Gull is nearly annual in New York State, especially along the Niagara River, and, as a result, NYSARC will no longer review upstate reports after 2017. Elsewhere, however, it remains a very rare species. In some years during

the fall migration, numbers of Franklin's Gulls may be pushed eastward by westerly winds associated with strong cold fronts. 2015 was such a year, and the result was a spectacular incursion of this species, not only in New York, but along the entire eastern seaboard from Florida to New Brunswick and Quebec, Canada. The five fall records that were documented for NYSARC include four from coastal locations and one from Lake Ontario, with the maximum number seen at one site being six individuals. A quick check of the eBird species map for Franklin's Gull (Mar 2019) shows about a dozen locations with Franklin's Gulls in the western half of the State during 2015, about 20 sites in the coastal region, and one more site near Glens Falls in Warren County. Almost all of the Franklin's Gulls seen in New York were discovered on 13 Nov and most were one-day wonders. Franklin's Gull is much rarer in the spring, when Ethan Gyllenhaal and Greg Lawrence found an adult along the shore of Lake Ontario in Rochester on 7 May (2015-21).

Mew Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*)

2015-8-A One, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 9 Feb (Shane Blodgett, ph S. Blodgett)

Shane Blodgett is a shining example of how one can become good at finding rare gulls, combining knowledge, skill and patience. Scanning through the mass of Ring-billed Gulls at the Veteran's Memorial Pier in Brooklyn, Blodgett found this Mew Gull of the North American race, believed to be in its second cycle. This bird was apparently not reported after this day. Another Mew Gull, this being a first-cycle individual, was also present in the Brooklyn area during the same winter (eBird Feb 2019) but was not documented for NYSARC.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2015-28-A One, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 10 Jun (John H. Haas, ph J. Haas)

2015-29-A One, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 8 Jun (Joseph Viglietta, ph J. Viglietta). eBird 9 Jun

Two different Arctic Terns were found at Nickerson Beach within two days of each other. Viglietta documented an adult and Hass documented a first-cycle individual. The flats at Moriches Inlet, much further east on Long Island, are known for attracting this species every year in late spring/early summer. However, there are relatively few records from further west, though we might expect more appearing at tern colonies as birders become accustomed to looking for the fine details necessary to pick them out from the abundant Common Tern (*S. hirundo*).

White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*)

2015-41-A One, Block Canyon N 40°01.363', W 71°21.292', **Pelagic**, 21 Aug (John Shemilt, ph J. Shemilt)

The Committee is grateful to John Shemilt for documenting yet another White-faced Storm-Petrel in the pelagic waters off New York. The work of Shemilt and Paul Guris/See Life Paulagics has greatly increased our understanding of bird

life in the pelagic zone. Due in large part to their efforts, it now seems that this species may be a regular visitor in late summer to our waters.

Fea's Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*)

2015-40-A One, 76 nm SSE of Shinnecock, **Pelagic**, 18 Aug (John Shemilt, ph J. Shemilt)

Providing the second record within a year, as well as just the second fully-accepted record in New York, this Fea's Petrel was found in pelagic waters and nicely photo-documented by John Shemilt. See Wilson *et al.* (2016) for a thorough discussion of the considerations involved in accepting records of this species.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasiliensis*)

2015-14-A/D One, Pomfret/Fredonia, **Chautauqua**, 23, 25 Apr (Kayo J. Roy, Willie D'Anna, James Pawlicki, ph W. D'Anna, J. Pawlicki). eBird 23-25 Apr

2015-39-A/B One, Buffalo, **Erie**, 15 Jul (James Pawlicki, Gates Dupont, ph J. Pawlicki, G. Dupont)

2015-70-A One, Motor Island WMA, **Erie**, 13 May (Ryan Bakelaar, ph R. Bakelaar)

All three records of Neotropic Cormorant this year came from the western edge of the State. While driving on the New York State Thruway near Fredonia, Jim Pawlicki noticed a much smaller cormorant flying along the Thruway with Double-crested Cormorants (*P. auritus*). Pulling over, he watched the bird fly nearly directly overhead, confirming its small size, as well as its shape, and noting a small bit of white on the throat near the base of the bill. Getting back into his vehicle and driving past the flock of cormorants, Pawlicki again pulled over and obtained a helpful cell phone image that shows the bird's substantially smaller size. Pawlicki spread the word immediately to birders, and a few hours later Gale VerHague relocated the Neotropic Cormorant at Lake Erie State Park. Subsequently, the bird was found at a private pond in the Town of Pomfret, where it was seen by several birders over the course of the next couple of days. The Motor Island Neotropic Cormorant was a specimen that was collected at the Double-crested Cormorant colony on the island and documented by Department of Environmental Conservation technician, Ryan Bakelaar. On 13 Jul Pawlicki and Dean DiTommaso were studying a distant small cormorant at Buffalo Harbor, which they considered could be a Neotropic Cormorant, but the great distance did not allow them to rule out the possibility of a runt Double-crested Cormorant nor a hybrid. Two days later, following up on this sighting, Pawlicki and Gates Dupont located what appeared to be a different bird but one which they could confirm was a Neotropic Cormorant. Unlike the bird that Pawlicki and DiTommaso observed, which appeared to be an adult, this bird was an immature. Using cell phones, Pawlicki was able to direct Dupont, who was in a kayak, to the spot where he could see the Neotropic Cormorant on the breakwall. Dupont was able to obtain some soft video to help document the

record. Prior to these three records, the only record in the State was from Hamlin Beach State Park in 2013 (Wilson *et al.* 2016).

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

2015-55-A One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 14 Nov (Marianne Ofenloch, ph M. Ofenloch). eBird 14 Nov-20 Dec

Marianne Ofenloch and Regina Volz discovered this American White Pelican flying over the west pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. eBird reports indicated that up to two birds were seen at the refuge after this date. Due to an increase in reports in recent years, NYSARC is no longer requesting documentation for this distinctive species.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

2015-22-A/C One, Thorne Preserve/Gardiner County Park, **Suffolk**, 20-21 May (Derek Rogers, Pete Morris, Michael S. Scheibel, ph D. Rogers, P. Morris, M. Scheibel)

This Little Egret, the first in New York, was discovered by Pete Morris at Gardiner County Park. See Morris (2015) and D'Anna *et al.* (2017a) for a full account of this record.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

2015-44-A/C One, Prospect Park/Greenwood Cemetery, **Kings**, 11-12 Oct (Klemens Gasser, Ryan Morrissey, Pamela Langford, ph K. Gasser, R. Morrissey, P. Langford)

2015-48-A/B One, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 18 Oct (Arie Gilbert, Catherine Barron, ph A. Gilbert)

The subadult White Ibis in Brooklyn was first observed by Klemens Gasser as it flew overhead at Prospect Park, then was seen on the ground the next day at nearby Green-Wood Cemetery. A week later another subadult was found at River Road on Staten Island but was only observed the one day. Although the two ibises were similar, the Committee felt that the primary molt pattern differentiated them, and thus, they were kept as two records.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2015-49-A One, Captree Island, **Suffolk**, 18 Jun (Arie Gilbert). eBird 18 Jun-14 Jul

This alternate-plumaged adult White-faced Ibis was discovered by Arie Gilbert and Phil Uruburu and stayed in the area for nearly a month.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2015-24-A/B One, Sterling Forest, **Orange**, 16 May (Pete Morris, Taylor Sturm)

2015-25-A One, Highland Mills, **Orange**, 26 May (Tom Brown)

Pete Morris, Taylor Sturm, Tim Dunn, and John Gluth had a relatively brief view of a flying adult Mississippi Kite at Sterling Forest. Although they did not

have time to obtain a photo, they studied the bird carefully to confirm the identification. The bird was apparently observed later that day by the Queens County Bird Club but was not seen on subsequent days. Although it was a life-bird for him, Morris noted in his report that the species was “firmly on my radar” for the day, as a number of birds had been reported recently and the southerly airflow and warm temperatures they were experiencing he knew to be conducive to bringing these raptors north into the region. The Highland Mills kite was observed by a very experienced birder at a family gathering; the detailed description indicated that this was a subadult bird.

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)

2015-4-A/B One, Bear Mountain State Park, **Rockland**, 5 Jan (Edwin McGowan, Gerhard Patsch)

2015-12-A One, Montgomery, **Orange**, 10-14 Apr (Kenneth M. McDermott, ph Mary Buskey, Matt Zeitler, Peter Schuyler, Jess Deitz). eBird 10-16 Apr

2015-66-A One, Seaford, **Nassau**, 10 Jan (Steve Schellenger, ph Charles Sammut)

These three records of Caracara constitute the first and only records for New York. For a detailed account of all three records, see D’Anna *et al.* (2017a).

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2015-7-A/B One, Town of Shawangunk, **Ulster** 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15-18 Feb (Eamon Freiburger, Kenneth M. McDermott, ph E. Freiburger) & Town of Montgomery, **Orange**, 20, 22 Feb (Kenneth M. McDermott, ph Drew Schuyler)

2015-65-A One, Town of Shawangunk, **Ulster**, 25 Dec (Kenneth M. McDermott)

Eamon Freiburger discovered the white-morph Gyrfalcon in Ulster County, where it was seen by numerous birders over the following two weeks. The bird moved to Orange County on 20 Feb, where Ken McDermott and Drew Schuyler were able to document it. The following winter, McDermott documented what appeared to be the same bird, this time back in Ulster County (2015-65).

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

2015-64-A One, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 19 Dec 2015- 1 Jan 2016 (Brent Bomkamp)

This Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered by John Gluth during the Montauk CBC and seen by several CBC participants that day. The bird lingered at the site until the last report, by Brent Bomkamp, on 1 Jan 2016.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*)

2015-56-A/D One, Central Park, **New York**, 18, 21, 22 Nov (Peter Paul, Jack Rothman, Ardith Bondi, Richard Guthrie, ph Robert Rovulo, A. Bondi, R. Guthrie, video Tim Healy, audio P. Paul)

This Pacific-slope Flycatcher at Central Park constitutes the first record for New York. See D’Anna *et al.* (2017a) for a full account.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2015-18-A One, Conewango Swamp WMA, **Cattaraugus**, 12 Apr (Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna)

While working on the "April Bird Count" for the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Joe Mitchell found this Say's Phoebe at Conewango Swamp WMA. Joe alerted other birders immediately, and several were able to travel to see the bird that day. Most records of Say's Phoebe in the East are in the fall and winter (Burke 1998). This is only the second spring record in New York, the first being on 26 Apr 2013 in Brooklyn.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

2015-63-A Two, Pelham Bay Park, **Bronx**, 14-15 Nov (Richard Aracil)

Richard Aracil and Matthieu Benoit discovered these Cave Swallows, and Aracil managed to get diagnostic photos of one bird on 14 Nov. Although Aracil only reported two Cave Swallows as being definitively identified over the two-day period, he indicated that five other swallows that were not observed as well were also likely this species.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

2015-47-A/I One, John Boyd Thacher State Park, Voorheesville, **Albany**, 20-26 Oct (Thomas Williams, John Kent, Richard Guthrie, Jeremy Collison, Susan Joseph, Terry Bain, Arie Gilbert, Gregg Recer, Bill Purcell, ph T. Williams, J. Kent, R. Guthrie, J. Collison, A. Gilbert, G. Recer, B. Purcell). eBird 20 Oct-8 Nov

This Townsend's Solitaire at John Boyd Thacher State Park was well-documented subsequent to its discovery by Craig Thompson and Ro Woodard.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

2015-10-A One, Great River, **Suffolk**, 13-21 Mar (Kathaleen Rogers, ph K. Rogers)

Kathaleen Rogers documented this adult male Varied Thrush that visited her feeding station for nine days.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

2015-36-A/E One, Wilton, **Saratoga**, 5 Jul (John Kent, Thomas Williams, Will Raup, Susan Beaudoin, David W. Harrison, ph J. Kent, Naomi Lloyd). eBird 2-7 Jul

Brendan Hathaway found this Lark Sparrow on 2 Jul at the Wilton Wildlife Preserve, and several birders were able to see it and document it over the following days.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

2015-52-A One, Loudonville, **Albany**, 14 Nov (Jeremy Collison, ph J. Collison). eBird 11-29 Nov

Pastor John Paarlberg discovered this adult Harris's Sparrow at his feeding station, and Richard Guthrie arranged access to the yard for birders. As a token of appreciation, several birders brought food items to donate to the local church's food pantry, a positive result for both birders and community residents.

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*)

2015-51-A One, Norfolk, **St. Lawrence**, 16-28 Oct (Nora Lee, ph N. Lee)
This constitutes the first and only record of Bronzed Cowbird to date in New York. For a full account, see D'Anna *et al.* (2017a).

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)

2015-13-A One, Hawthorne, **Westchester**, 23 Apr (Jeff Seneca, ph J. Seneca)
Birding by himself at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Jeff Seneca found and photographed what turned out to be his life Black-throated Gray Warbler. There are now about 18 records in New York, with those about equally split between downstate and upstate.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

2015-5-A One, Rocky Point, **Suffolk**, 28-30 Jan (Sean Keenan, ph S. Keenan)
2015-20-A One, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 12 May (Shane Blodgett, ph S. Blodgett)
The adult female Western Tanager at Rocky Point showed up at the feeding station of Sean Keenan and lingered for three days before departing. Another female was found in Prospect Park by Rob Jett and documented for NYSARC by Shane Blodgett.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

2015-26-A/B Two, Dover Plains, **Dutchess**, 27 May (Barbara Mansell, Susan Joseph)
A "pair" of Blue Grosbeaks was found by these observers at Dover Plains. With the reports lacking photos, the Committee was at first skeptical of this record. However, considering that these experienced birders also saw and recorded the similar but smaller and more expected Indigo Bunting (*P. cyanea*) at the same location, Committee members were led to accept the record.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

2015-19-A One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 8 May (Jason Natti, video Nicole Natti)
2015-60-A/E One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 29 Nov-2 Jan 2016 (Richard Guthrie, Paul Chung, Debra Van Enkenvoort, Sean Sime, Kenneth M. McDermott, ph R. Guthrie, P. Chung, S. Sime, Curt McDermott). eBird 29 Nov-3 Jan 2016
Jason and Nicole Natti discovered and obtained video evidence of the adult male Painted Bunting at the Coast Guard station in Robert Moses State Park. Unfortunately, since this was a gated community, it did not allow for other birders to see this striking bird. On the other hand, the well-documented adult

male at Prospect Park was seen by hundreds, if not thousands, of observers, and featured prominently in newspaper and other media outlets. For discovering this stunning bird, Keir Randall receiving adulation from countless birders and casual observers alike. It was less certain that the bunting felt similarly toward Randall, though it did not appear to openly resent its new-found celebrity, as it lingered for nearly five weeks.

2015 Report Accepted But Origins Unknown or Unnatural

European Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*)

2015-15-A One, Saugerties, **Ulster**, 2 May (Robert Michaud, ph R. Michaud) This bird was observed at the feeding station of Robert Michaud, where a good photo of the bird was obtained. The Committee was in complete agreement that the photo showed a European Greenfinch. Although the photo indicated no obvious signs of captivity, the Committee felt that it was unlikely to be of natural origin. There are no accepted records of this species in North America, though there are several of birds believed to be escapes or releases [see, for example, Wilson *et al.* (2012) and Wilson *et al.* (2013)]. The species is only partially migratory in its native European range and is considered a short-distance migrant, at best (Wilson *et al.* 2012). Thus, it is not considered to be a very likely candidate for vagrancy to North America.

2013 Reports Accepted

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2013-93-A One, Sheldrake Lake, Larchmont, **Westchester**, 26 Feb (Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh). eBird 16 Feb-24 Mar

This record was documented for NYSARC by Andrew Baksh. One eBird report indicated that the goose was found on 15 Feb, but the person who discovered the bird was not indicated in any of the reports. Another, or possibly the same, Barnacle Goose was at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx from late November into the first week of January 2013 (2012-95). The NYSARC removed Barnacle Goose from its downstate review list in 2017.

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2013-94-A One, Gilgo Beach, **Suffolk**, 17 Feb (Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh). eBird 17 Feb-9 Mar

Andrew Baksh documented this exciting gray-morph Gyrfalcon for NYSARC and included two diagnostic images, one of the bird in flight. The Gyr had been found earlier in the day by Pat Lindsay.

2012 Report Accepted

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2012-95-D One, Van Cortlandt Park, **Bronx**, 5 Jan 2013 (Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh). eBird 25 Nov 2012-6 Jan 2013

This report documented a previously accepted record of a Barnacle Goose at this location.

2011 Report Accepted

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

2011-156-A Two, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 10 Aug (Shane Blodgett, ph S. Blodgett)

Shane Blodgett discovered these two immature White Ibis early in the morning at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Unfortunately, the birds did not linger, and only a couple of other birders managed to see them before they took flight. This now makes an incredible five records of White Ibis in New York in 2011, although it is conceivable that two of those pertain to the same individual (Wilson *et al.* 2013). Records of this species in the State have increased markedly since 2008.

2003 Report Accepted

“Harlan’s” Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*)

2003-93-A One, Braddock Bay, **Monroe**, 1 May (Daena Ford, ph John Newhouse)

The Committee is indebted to Daena Ford, co-director of Braddock Bay Raptor Research, for submitting the excellent documentation for this record, and also to Jerry Liguori, who first identified the bird. The record involves what was at first thought to be a dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk that was captured and banded at Braddock Bay by John Newhouse. In October of 2013, Luke Tiller, a former official raptor counter at the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch, wrote a blog post about dark buteos occurring at Braddock Bay, with photos. In July of 2014, raptor expert, Jerry Liguori, after having noticed the post, informed Luke that the individual of this record was actually a “Harlan’s” Hawk, a different subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk. “Harlan’s” Hawks breed in Alaska and the Northwest Territories of Canada and winter from British Columbia to the southern Great Plains and Texas (Liguori 2005). In September of 2014, Liguori followed up with his own blog post about this bird, indicating why this individual was a “Harlan’s” Hawk and not another form of Red-tailed Hawk. Ford compiled expert commentary on this bird from Liguori, Frank Nicoletti, and William Clark. All three experts explained why they were convinced that this was a “Harlan’s” Hawk. The record was unanimously accepted by the Committee, and this is believed to be the first photo-documented record of this form in New York (Dodge and Nicoletti 1998). There are no previous records accepted by

NYSARC and, also, none in eBird for New York. Nevertheless, this form has been reported previously at hawk-watches in the State, and some of these may be valid.

1985 Report Accepted

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

1985-48-A One, Brewster, **Putnam**, 27 Aug (John Askildsen)

This old record of a Wood Stork in Putnam County was documented with a solid description by John Askildsen. Askildsen's report indicates that the bird was originally found by a non-birder, Ted Gass, on 23 Aug but that birders were not made aware of it until 27 Aug. Unfortunately, it was found dead the next day. Photos of the bird were reportedly obtained, and the specimen was collected. However, the Committee's attempts to locate this hard documentation, in order to further strengthen the record, were in vain. This record is mentioned in *The Kingbird* (Treacy 1985). If any readers have additional information on the whereabouts of the photos or specimen, the Committee would appreciate hearing about it.

2015 Reports Not Accepted

Cinnamon Teal (*Spatula cyanoptera*)

2015-50-A One, Montezuma NWR, **Seneca**, 2 Nov

This report documented a surprising bird seen along the Montezuma NWR wildlife drive. Originally found by James Osborn on 1 Nov, the bird stayed around for several days, allowing for much study and many photographs. It was originally considered to be a Cinnamon Teal in transitional plumage, as documented in this report, but with better views and photographs, it was then thought to be a hybrid Blue-winged (*S. discors*) x Cinnamon Teal. This duck was quite similar to a male Cinnamon Teal with its reddish plumage and a bill that was slightly larger and more spatulate than on a Blue-winged Teal. While the reddish plumage was not as warm and saturated in color as a basic plumaged adult male, some thought this could be explained by the bird being in "eclipse" plumage. However, other traits suggesting one parent being a Blue-winged Teal included a slightly paler area at the base of the bill, a slightly paler "hip" patch, and black spotting on the flanks. After some discussion about this report at the annual meeting, the Committee was unanimous in its agreement that the bird was most likely a hybrid. This is not the first such hybrid believed to be seen in New York. Sherony (1998) and Bull (1974) list a total of five occurrences.

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*)

2015-3-A One, Hempstead, **Nassau**, 17 Jan

This report documented a male Green-winged Teal that appeared to lack a vertical white bar at the side of the breast. The observer concluded from this that

the duck was not the expected American form, *A. c. carolinensis*, but must be of the Eurasian subspecies, *A. c. crecca*. While the Committee agrees that the lack of the vertical white bar on this bird is somewhat unusual, it does not, in and of itself, mean that it must be of the Eurasian subspecies. The photos that were included with the report were somewhat underexposed, making it difficult to firmly assess the subspecies. However, the stronger pale markings on the head that *crecca* shows are not apparent in the photos, nor is the horizontal stripe on the lower scapulars. As a result, the Committee was not convinced that this was a “Eurasian” Green-winged Teal.

“Selasphorus” Hummingbird (*Selasphorus* species)

2015-43-A One, Wappinger Falls, **Dutchess**, 9 Aug

This was a second-hand report of a bird that was identified as belonging to the *Selasphorus* hummingbird genus, which, in North America, includes Rufous (*S. rufus*), Allen’s (*S. sasin*) and Broad-tailed (*S. platycercus*) Hummingbirds. The submitter is an experienced hummingbird bander, but he did not see the bird and was only able to see photographs of it, one of which he forwarded to the Committee. Interestingly, the same residence that hosted this bird also hosted a hatching-year female Rufous Hummingbird on 9 Nov 2012, a record that was accepted by NYSARC (2012-88). In this case, however, the Committee was not convinced that this was not an immature male Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), and they sought the opinion of hummingbird expert, Sheri Williamson. Williamson’s response was convincing to the Committee: “The long, notched tail with no evidence of rufous coloration is enough to rule out all of the *Selasphorus*, and the overall proportions, tail shape and color, dark mask, finely speckled gorget, and dull tawny wash on the underparts are all consistent with a juvenile male Ruby-throated.”

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

2015-45-A One, Town of Plattsburgh, **Clinton**, 15 Oct

This was a sight-only report that included a fairly thorough description of what was observed. A majority of the Committee believed that this was an acceptable report. However, this can be a difficult identification, and those opposed to accepting it brought up what was not observed, such as a paler nape, as well as the possibility that this could be a runt Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) or even a Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). After three rounds of review, the majority were not able to sway the two additional members necessary to accept the record.

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*)

2015-11-A One, Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, 24 Mar

This bird was viewed by a party of four that was dining at a restaurant along the Niagara River. The bird was observed drifting past on a small ice floe. Although a large gull was considered by the submitter, he felt that it was ruled out by the

black bill on this bird. It was apparent to the Committee that the observer was quite inexperienced and did not realize that an immature gull can show a black bill. Indeed, it is highly likely that the observers were watching a Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*), which is consistent with the description. A Yellow-nosed Albatross here would be unprecedented for the location and the time of year, and thus, would require very strong documentation, which was lacking in this report.

Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*)

2015-62-A/B One, Montauk Point, **Suffolk**, 15 Dec

This was an interesting report involving submissions from two experienced birders who were seawatching at Montauk Point. One submission in particular was pretty thorough, describing what was observed and how the identification was arrived at. This long-winged seabird with dark wings above and below, a dark back, and a white head, neck, and rump could have been an albatross. However, some Committee members were concerned that Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) was ruled out mainly on the basis of plumage. Gannets can show a bewildering variety of plumages between juvenile and adult, not all of which are shown in the field guides. Committee members found photos of Northern Gannets that seemed very similar to the description provided of the bird under review. Unfortunately, the observers were unable to obtain photographs, which might have helped, even though the bird was fairly distant. As a potential first State record, documentation needs to be exceptionally strong, and these reports did not quite meet that threshold.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

2015-37-A One, Colonie, **Albany**, 11 Jul

This report of a bird seen only from the neck up at close range while it was swimming and diving in the Mohawk River was not at odds with an Anhinga, especially the long thin curved neck and yellow sharply pointed bill. However, such an exceptional rarity requires a complete description of the entire bird, and perhaps photos as well. The Committee was unable to accept the report.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

2015-16-A One, Ausable State Park, **Clinton**, 3 May

An experienced hawk-watcher saw this reported bird, both perched and in flight. He stressed the dramatic dihedral shape of the wings in flight, which he felt ruled out other Eastern North American *buteos*. However, his plumage description did not seem consistent with a Swainson's Hawk, particularly the thin patagial marks noted on the undersides of the wings. At least one reviewer noted that the description was not at odds with a "Krider's" Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis borealis* pale morph), which also would be a very unusual sighting. Other Committee members simply were not swayed by the report.

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)**2015-46-A** One, Jamesville, **Onondaga** 17 Oct

This was a one-minute naked-eye observation of a bird in flight with a Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) very close by for size comparison. The observer is a long-time raptor enthusiast, having served as the official counter at various North American raptor migration sites, including Derby Hill in New York State. Unfortunately, the identification was based only on size, shape, and flight style, as little of the plumage pattern could be assessed. The brevity of the observation and the lack of optics were concerns of the Committee, and some felt that stronger documentation was needed for such an early observation date. There is also the possibility that this could have been a falconer's bird, some of which are actually hybrids, and which the observer himself admitted he could not rule out with the views that he had. With these shortcomings, the Committee was unable to accept the record.

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)**2015-17-A** One, Town of Sardinia, **Erie**, 2 May

This was a very brief report from a self-proclaimed non-bird-watcher. There was no description of size or shape, and the only information provided was that the bird had a blue body with a black crown. This falls far short of what is needed to document any rare bird, much less a potential first State record.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemannii hornemannii*)**2015-30-A** One, Cape Vincent Village, **Jefferson**, 2-3 Apr

This was a compelling report, and some Committee members were initially in favor of acceptance. There was no disagreement that this was a Hoary Redpoll, but the nominate subspecies reported here is extremely rare in New York. In fact, there are no records that have been accepted by NYSARC. The bird was described as a "very light, white redpoll", which stood out immediately to the observer. Having identified Hoary Redpolls in the past, the observer was struck by how much whiter this bird seemed. He also noted its slightly larger size than the accompanying Common Redpolls (*A. flammea*). *A. h. hornemannii* often appears considerably larger than *A. flammea*. The bird was apparently a male, as the observer noted a pink wash on the breast. The expected form of Hoary Redpoll in New York is *A. h. exilipes*, which, although whiter than Common Redpoll, is often quite similar. While this could have been *hornemannii*, the Committee felt that such a difficult identification needed to be documented better, preferably with clear photographs of the bird, and after discussion, the record was not accepted. It should be noted that this form has likely occurred in New York or will occur at some point (Brinkley 1998), as there are well documented records in southern Ontario and other nearby states. eBird (Mar 2019) shows four records in New York, but only one checklist has photos that appear to strongly support this form.

“Pink-sided” Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*)

2015-59-A One, Perinton, **Monroe**, 30 Nov

This bird was observed by two very experienced birders and documented nicely with several photos. It was a contentious record, with the Committee voting in favor after the first round of review by a vote of five to two, one vote shy of acceptance. Points noted against the identification were that the pink sides were not as broad as typical for this form and the simple fact that it was an immature bird, as told by the streaks on the back—junco subspecies are even more variable in immature plumage. In the end the Committee decided to seek outside comment from western birders familiar with the “Oregon” and “Pink-sided” Junco complex. Two of those experts agreed with the dissenters that this was an intergrade of some type, while the third thought that the bird was fine for a “Pink-sided” Junco. Features noted by the experts as being off for a good “Pink-sided” Junco were gray intruding into the pinkish flanks and less white in the tail than expected. The fact that the bird showed a whitish wingbar was also thought to possibly indicate a hybrid, although immatures can also show wingbars. Hybridization between the various subspecies is quite common, producing individuals that can be difficult or impossible to pigeon-hole into a subspecies or hybrid group. The record was turned down in the final round of review. The Committee thanks Tony Leukering, Steve Mlodinow and Bill Schmoker for providing comments.

2012 Reports Not Accepted

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)

2012-125-A One, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 4 Nov

The differences between Lazuli and Indigo (*P. cyanea*) Buntings in non-breeding plumage are often quite subtle, and the individual reported here falls into that category. The submission consisted of a brief description and two photographs taken by another observer. Both photos show the bird in almost the same position, with the bird in profile. Obviously, photos from additional angles could have been helpful. Some Committee members believed this was an immature male bunting, and several thought that what could be seen in the photos was better for Indigo Bunting. Given the difficulty of this identification, as well as the possibility of a hybrid, documentation needs to be very strong for acceptance, which the Committee was unable to do. There has only been one accepted record of Lazuli Bunting in New York, an adult male in Genesee County in March of 1998.

CONTRIBUTORS

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A BROWN BOOBY (*SULA LEUCOGASTER*) IN NEW YORK CITY DURING A REGION-WIDE INFUX

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Abstract—Brown Boobies (*Sula leucogaster*) are pantropically distributed seabirds that are regularly found as vagrants in northeastern North America (Schreiber and Norton 2002). Here I detail the sighting and identification of an adult Brown Booby at The Narrows, a tidal strait between the New York City boroughs of Staten Island and Brooklyn. This observation represents the first record of this species within Richmond County waters, the third record for New York City overall, and one of the 19 records in northeastern North America during the year 2018.

The morning of 2 October 2018 was partly cloudy and warm, with temperatures expected to rise to 77 degrees Fahrenheit by mid-day. At about 0950 hrs, I was birding the northern shoreline of Fort Wadsworth, an active military installation and park within Gateway National Recreation Area, Staten Island Unit. I originally intended to search the brushy fields in the low-lying areas of the Fort, but my attention quickly turned to a large flock of gulls moving between The Narrows and the Lower New York Bay. At approximately 1010 hrs, the gulls moved to the Upper Bay from the base of the Verrazzano Bridge. While I scanned the flock, I noticed a dark-colored, long-winged bird flying south toward my location. As it flew closer, I noted its deep wing-beats, uniform chocolate-brown color on its upper-parts, and large pale bill and face. Realizing that the bird was a Brown Booby, I put my phone camera to the eyepiece of my binoculars and recorded about 15 seconds of it in flight before losing sight of the bird behind two large boats that were passing close to the shoreline. I turned to the Lower Bay to scan the nearby mixed flock of gulls but was unable to find the bird. After about an hour of searching with two other observers, the bird was not re-located, and in the following hours, no Brown Boobies were reported locally.

In identifying a Brown Booby in this area, the possibility of confusion with juvenile Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*) and juvenile Masked Boobies (*Sula dactylatra*) must be addressed. Although no Northern Gannets were reported in the Lower Bay on 2 October, they are seasonally quite common in the area, with up to several thousand individuals being seen at a time during the late-fall and winter months (pers. obs.). Unlike a juvenile Northern Gannet, the bird I observed had uniformly chocolate-brown upper-parts and lacked any white speckling or patches, as would be present on a subadult Northern Gannet (Harrison 1983, Sibley 2014). Masked Boobies have recently been found on at least two occasions in Massachusetts (e.g., 10 Sep 2015: Garvey *et al.* 2017),

Table 1. Records of vagrant Brown Boobies (*Sula leucogaster*) in northeastern North America in 2018, compiled using the eBird database (Sullivan *et al.* 2009).

Date(s)	Location	Age	eBird ID
25 Feb	Shark River Inlet, Monmouth, NJ	Juv	S43183410
28 May	Atlantic Ocean, Shelburne, NS	Juv	S46904956
2 Jun	Schoodic Island waters, Hancock, ME	Juv	S46236868
8 Jul	Atlantic Ocean, Halifax, NS	Ad	S47195082
23 Jul	Philadelphia Airport, Philadelphia, PA	Juv	S47371043
27 Jul	Gulf of St. Lawrence, QC	Ad	S47582019
30 Jul	Atlantic Ocean, Suffolk, NY	Ad	S47566187
30 Jul	Atlantic Ocean, Nantucket, MA	Ad	S47555678
4-28 Aug	Bay of Fundy, Digby, NS	Ad	S47674128
7 Aug	Menemsha Harbor, Dukes, MA	Juv	S47713131
14 Aug	Atlantic Ocean, Nantucket, MA	Ad	S47853933
17-20 Aug	Onota Lake, Berkshire, MA	Juv	S47898257
19 Aug	Race Point, Barnstable, MA	Juv	S47945822
27 Aug	Atlantic Ocean, Ocean, NJ	Ad	S48294755
2 Sep	Andrew's Point, Essex, MA	Ad	S48243843
7 Sep	Atlantic Ocean, Halifax, NS	Ad	S48749233
22-26 Sep	Cape Island, Cape May, NJ	Juv	S48668039
2 Oct	The Narrows, Richmond, NY	Ad	S48896928
8 Oct	Northumberland Strait, Pictou, NS	Juv	S49070371

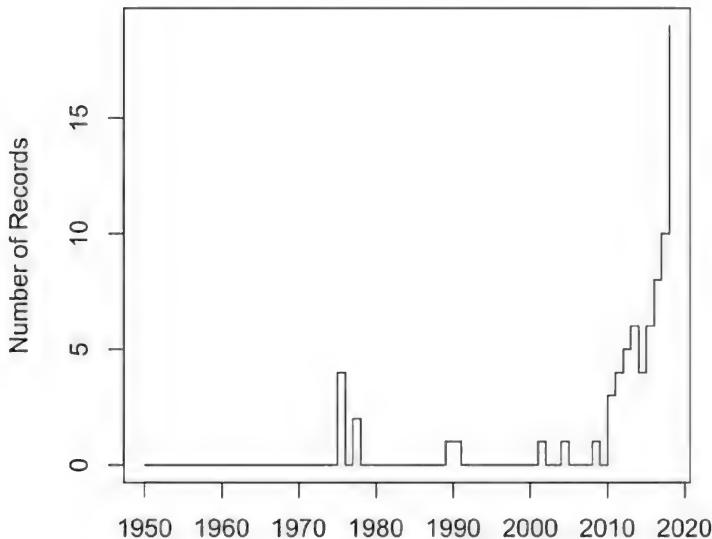


Figure 1. Records of vagrant Brown Boobies in northeastern North America 1950-2018.

twice in New Jersey (Wenzelburger 2004, Boyle 2011, Hanson *et al.* 2017), with possible sightings in Rhode Island (Nisbet *et al.* 2013) and New York (Schiff and Wollin 1995). A juvenile Masked Booby would show white uppertail coverts and a white collar, both of which this bird lacked (Harrison 1983, Sibley 2014). Given how low this bird was flying along the surface of the water, I was unable to get a clear view of its underside, but the completely pale bill is indicative of the bird being in at least its second-year (Pyle 2008). The video I was able to record, while not definitive in terms of separating Brown from Masked Booby due to the picture quality, shows a dark Booby with characteristic deep wing-beats, flying (and gliding) low over the water.

In northeastern North America, records of vagrant Brown Boobies date back to at least the mid- to late-nineteenth century, with the earliest specimens being collected in 1878 in Cape Cod, Massachusetts (Veit and Petersen 1993) and sometime prior to 1893 in Moriches Bay, New York (Dutcher 1893). A review of records from northeastern North America (Atlantic Canada, New England, New York, New Jersey; Tufts 1986; Veit and Petersen 1993; Levine 1998; Boyle 2011), demonstrates sharp increases in the number of records since the later-half of the twentieth century (Nisbet *et al.* 2013; see Figure 1), and in 2018 alone there were at least 19 reports of this species in the Northeast (Table 1). Of these reports, none were storm related, which is also true for most prior regional records of this species (Veit and Petersen 1993, Boyle 2011, Nisbet *et al.* 2013).

Vagrancy is often driven by population growth in some part of a species' range (Veit 2000, 2008). Although the last breeding seabird census conducted in the Caribbean reported a decline in their population (Bradley and Norton 2009), there is a possibility that, more recently, this population of Brown Boobies has grown, or that a more distant population might be the source for recent records in the Northeast. The increasing frequency of Brown Boobies in the Northeast might be related to climate change, which has been found to affect the at-sea distribution of seabirds worldwide (Hyrenbach and Veit 2003, Péron *et al.* 2010).

The sighting described here represents the first record of Brown Booby for Richmond County and the third record overall for New York City, with the previous two being from Queens; at Riis Beach, on 29 September 1977 (Richard and Chevalier 1978), and at Fort Tilden Beach on 29 August 2014 (NYSARC 2018).

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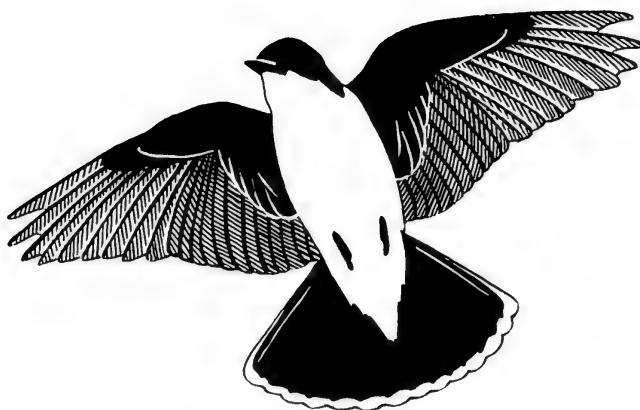
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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

HISTORIC GOLDEN EAGLE DAY AT FRANKLIN MOUNTAIN HAWKWATCH

The largest single-day flight of Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in eastern North America, according to records of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (www.hawkcount.org), took place on 25 October 2018 at the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch near Oneonta, NY. A total of 128 Golden Eagles was tallied by counters Peter Fauth and Becky Gretton and witnessed by numerous visitors. Many of the birds were documented in photographs by Curt Morgan.

The big day was preceded four days earlier by a flight of 41 goldens which briefly stood as the highest October count at the site. The day was also bracketed by counts of 24 on 24 Oct. and 19 on 26 Oct. Total Golden Eagles for October was 254, well above the 175 season total average in the 17 years since full-time counting began at the lookout, and even above the previous seasonal high of 252 in 2005.

This unprecedented movement of Golden Eagles in October came two weeks prior to the traditional fall migration peak in mid-November. Other eastern hawk watches known for significant Golden Eagle counts, including Hawk Mountain, Allegheny Front and Waggoner's Gap in Pennsylvania, also reported October totals considerably higher than normal.

No cause for this large, early and widespread movement is immediately apparent. A review of summer and fall 2018 weather records for October in the province of Quebec, where most eastern Golden Eagles nest, showed precipitation well below normal, with more snow cover than usual in October (www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/nsa/). However, October temperatures were normal (www.climat.meteo.gc.ca). Food supply could potentially be a factor, but no measure of this is readily available.

Golden Eagles do often move in a concentrated fashion in migration. Franklin Mountain has recorded 31 dates with counts of 20 birds or higher over the past two decades, including the previous single-day high of 71 on 11 Nov. 2005, a count of 57 on 11 Nov. 2016, and several counts in the 30s and 40s. The previous eastern North American record was 74, counted at Allegheny Front on 24 October 2015. Interestingly, the count at Allegheny was 66 Golden Eagles on the day following the record count of 128 at Franklin Mountain, following a consistent trend at the two sites.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—FALL 2018

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All across the state, it seems like almost everyone experienced a warmer than normal September and early October. Temperatures finally moved toward normal later in October and generally became downright chilly by November. The remnants of Hurricane Florence passed over central parts of the state in mid September, bringing as much as nine inches of rain to parts of Region 7. Precipitation was more of a mixed bag until November, when almost everyone received more rain or snow than is normal.

The erratic nature of the weather conditions throughout the state makes it difficult to find meaningful trends in the timing and quantities of birds moving through on fall migration. With warm temperatures extending well into the fall season, waterfowl were later to arrive on the scene, as was noted in Region 2, where waterfowl numbers were generally considered low and arrival times later than normal. The exception here is the Snow Goose, an Arctic-nesting goose, which seems to come in earlier each year. In this case, even though we know that overall Snow Goose numbers are exploding, the fall season data can make it seem as if they are in trouble. Over in Region 7, it was noted that while Snow Goose numbers typically reach 50,000 into December, this fall numbers were down to a few thousand by the end of November due to heavy snow cover. Through much of Region 5, the Snow Goose movement was “barely discernible” and in Region 6 “very few” were reported. Otherwise, waterfowl were generally characterized as being late in arriving and low in diversity and overall numbers and the cold November temperatures pushed waterfowl out of some Regions ahead of their normal departure dates.

The few highlights seemed to mostly come out of Region 2, with good counts of Ring-necked Ducks at Round Pond, Hooded Mergansers at Honeoye Lake, and Long-tailed Duck and Red-breasted Mergansers at Hamlin Beach. Waterfowl “rarities” were scattered through most of the state, with Eurasian Wigeon reported from six Regions, and Tufted Duck from three. Two Common Eiders in coastal Region 9 must be a reflection of big increases seen in Region 10. A Barnacle Goose in Region 10 is now to be expected, while a Pink-footed in Region 7 was just the third Regional record. A count of 81 Red-necked Grebes in Region 2 continues a trend of high fall counts there.

A Common Nighthawk Watch in Suffolk County in Region 10 had a peak count of 306 on 11 September. A Chuck-will’s Widow in Central Park made for a very rare fall observation. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were mentioned in several reports, both for good numbers (Region 1, ten reports) and for late dates (Region 5, 9 November and Region 8, 10 November). 540 Chimney Swifts at a school in Livingston County (Region 2) constitutes a high count, and a few lingered elsewhere in the Region through 2 November. Three in Region 1 on 12

November were likewise very late. Mild temperatures through October may have allowed these species and others to linger beyond their normal departure dates. A Rufous Hummingbird brought to rehabbers provided a third record for Region 5.

A Purple Gallinule lingered for several days in Brooklyn, Region 10, and a count of 500 Common Gallinules at Montezuma WMA in Region 2 was a great number. As noted in the summer reports, Sandhill Crane is now an established, widespread part of the state's avifauna, with records from eight of ten Regions and a max of 134 at the Savannah Mucklands in Region 3.

Shorebird diversity was generally considered to be good, but numbers were low. Jeff Bolsinger in Region 6 noted that "Shorebirds were surprisingly scarce given the seeming abundance of foraging habitat...". Low numbers were mentioned throughout—"counts were poor" (Region 2), "numbers were relatively low" (Region 3), "'grasspipers' were perhaps at an all-time low" and "numbers of other sandpipers were generally very low" (Region 10). Unlike the situation with Snow Geese, where we know the overall population is booming and occasional low numbers can be written off, shorebird numbers should be of genuine concern. Good finds away from the coast included scattered Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones and Red Phalaropes.

Virtually all the comments made about gulls mentioned disappointing numbers and diversity. Sabine's in Regions 1 and 4 were among the rarer species mentioned, the latter representing the first record in eBird for Broome County. A scattering of Little Gulls was found in several Regions, including four reports in Region 5. The other usual but uncommon species—Glaucous, Iceland and Lesser Black-backed—were also picked up in small numbers. As expected, the best mix came from Region 1, with Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's, Little, Franklin's and both white-winged species turning up. Robert Moses SP in Region 10 produced high counts of Lesser Black-backs, including a peak of 107 on 10 September, as local birders continue to key in on the timing and weather conditions that produce beach fallouts of this species.

Parasitic Jaegers were reported from a scattering of mostly expected locations, and in Region 10 there were three separate reports of Pomarine Jaeger on 25 September, the same stormy day that a Northern Fulmar was seen from the shore in Queens. Storm birding that day also turned up all four expected shearwater species.

Four reports of Pacific Loon from upstate locations seems remarkable, among them a bird found in Chaumont Bay (Region 6) by Nick Leone. This marks the seventh consecutive year that Nick has found one at that location! I'm very tempted to say that he has a knack for finding them, but I won't. At Hamlin Beach a good peak count of 1,977 Red-throated Loons was mentioned in contrast to a disappointing Common Loon peak of only 230.

Very rare, a Brown Booby at the Verrazano Narrows is discussed at length elsewhere in this issue (pp. 22-26). A Northern Gannet reported from Derby Hill

in Region 5 is a great bird away from the tidewater areas. Up to six were seen from Playland Park in Region 9 at the western end of the Long Island Sound.

Cattle Egrets, which at one time seemed poised to stampede across North America, have become quite scarce in recent years. This fall, however, reports were received from nine of ten Regions, perhaps a sign of a resurgence? Little Blue Herons were scattered through the upstate areas, with reports coming from Regions 2, 3, 8 and 9. Tricolored Heron has dropped off the radar over the past couple of years. The only report for the season was one late bird at Jamaica Bay on 15 November. A Least Bittern at Buck Pond in Region 2 on 21 November was a record late observation for the Region. An adult White Ibis at Tobay was a nice record for this less than annual rarity.

Probably the hawkwatch highlight of the season came from Franklin Mountain in Region 4 where 128 Golden Eagles were counted on 25 October, a one day record for eastern North America. See page 27 for a write-up of this remarkable event. Overall, the numbers of raptors recorded at that site was slightly above average. Broad-winged Hawks did well at hawk watches in Regions 4, 8 and 9, and over at Fire Island in Region 10 all species came in above their 20 year averages except Peregrine Falcon, which was slightly below. A Mississippi Kite on Staten Island was notable.

23 Northern Saw-whet Owls banded at Caroline in Region 3 on 30 October set a new Regional record, while over in Region 8 on the same night the season's high count of 12 Saw-whets was captured at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. Hamlin College in Region 5 had their peak count of 28 birds on 26 October. See that Regional report for an interesting breakdown of sex and age data for these owls and also for a discussion of owls and hawks injured or killed by traps set out for fur-bearing mammals.

A Black-backed Woodpecker at Ferd's Bog in Region 7 was the only one reported for the state this season. Three Pileated Woodpeckers on Staten Island may represent a movement of this species into Region 10, where it has historically been very rare. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue their expansion, with a record 288 tallied in Region 1.

A Western Kingbird in Concord provided a tenth record for Region 1. Two November empid flycatchers in Region 2 are intriguing, but could not be identified to species. Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers received positive mentions in a couple of Regions. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Region 8 became quite a celebrity by sticking around for at least 10 days, during which time it was seen by many birders and non-birders alike. Also excellent was a third Regional record for Say's Phoebe in Region 2. Region 10 racked up some great flycatcher records as well, with a handful of Western Kingbirds, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at Montauk (possibly two separate birds) and one at Point Lookout, an Ash-throated Flycatcher at Heckscher SP and, best of all, a Gray Kingbird at Jones Beach. This last, unfortunately, turned out to be a one-hour wonder, much to the frustration of a horde of birders who rushed to the scene.

Elsewhere in Region 10, a Northern Wheatear entertained a m.o.b. of birders at Heckscher SP, while a Varied Thrush was brought to rehabbers after striking a window in Manhattan. A Bohemian Waxwing on the north shore of Suffolk County was a great find.

The extended warm period seems to have had its effect on a wide range of passerines, with many reports of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes, sparrows, etc. lingering well beyond their normal departure dates. Just as a sample, in Region 1, Red-eyed Vireos and Baltimore Orioles lingered into November, a Hooded Warbler was photographed 17 and 18 November, and a Yellow Warbler stayed around until 18 November. In Region 2, a Warbling Vireo was quite late 24 October, but while there was a nice sampling of late-lingering birds, overall numbers were thought to be down. In Region 3, November warblers included Northern Parula and Blackpoll, and in Region 5, a Blackpoll was found on 15 November, a record late date. Also in Region 5, a House Wren found on 9 November was reportedly only the fourth Nov/Dec upstate record for the species. In Region 6, late lingering songbirds included Nashville and Hooded Warbler. 39 Philadelphia Vireos for Region 6 was twice the previous seasonal high count. Still in Region 6, Orange-crowned Warblers not only stayed beyond their normal departure times, but also passed through in much larger numbers than is normal. 28 reports was said to be more than double the normal tally. Orange-crowned numbers were also up in Regions 5 and 9. In Region 10, many warbler species lingered beyond their normal departure dates, including 11 species still present in November. An Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler was photographed in Region 5.

The widely anticipated winter finch flight sort of materialized with Pine Siskin occurring in decent numbers over large parts of the state. There were widespread reports of Evening Grosbeak, with a high count of 68 coming from Summerhill in Region 3. Elsewhere they were present in low numbers, but that's still enough to send birders scrambling for a glimpse after many years of near absence. Red Crossbills and Common Redpolls were found in many areas, but almost always in small scattered groups. Pine Grosbeaks were found in generally low numbers in Regions 1, 2 and 6. Purple Finches staged a major irruption in Region 10, with a peak count of 2,216 on 30 October at Robert Moses SP. Dickcissels were found in at least five Regions, with six reports from Region 9. Rare sparrows included a Nelson's in Region 2 and another at Fort Drum in Region 6, a LeConte's in Region 8 and a Harris's in Central Park, Region 10.

I think it's safe to say that for many birders, fall migration brings the excitement of numbers swelled by the season's hatchlings and the promise of unexpected rarities waiting to be discovered. In searching for a Bird of the Season, I'm struck by the fact that we're a little lean on true rarities this season. Probably the best birds were either one-time sightings, like the LeConte's Sparrow in Region 8, or, like the Gray Kingbird in Region 10, disappeared before they could be admired by more than a handful of lucky observers. I kind

of like the idea of a bird like the Region 8 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a bird that had the decency to stick around for more than 10 days—and this being a species notorious for being a one-day wonder. So, this Scissor-tail is my BOTs. Please read Larry Alden's account in Region 8 about how he was lucky to get a second shot at this bird, and then how it showed well for birder and non-birder alike. Larry talks about this "teachable moment", and I think that really elevates the value of this bird. Also, I hope this Scissor-tail can teach proper bird etiquette to any Gray Kingbird it may meet in the future. Thank you and good birding!

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REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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September 2018 was warm and closed out the warmest 5-month stretch ever recorded in Buffalo. The average temperature was 67.2°F, 5.0° above normal, and the monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 3.58", 0.32" below normal. The first 10 days of October were warm, while the remainder was cool and damp. Fall foliage was delayed by several weeks following the warm summer. The average temperature was 50.5°, 0.3° below normal, and the monthly precipitation was 4.23", 0.71" above normal. One tenth of an inch of snow fell on the 20th, which seemed early for recent years but was still 0.8" below the long term monthly average. November was cold and dreary. The average temperature was 35.5°, 5.2° below normal, which was the eleventh coolest November on record. The monthly precipitation was 4.90", 0.89" above normal, and 13.4" of snow fell, 5.5" above normal. Notable weather events included strong gusty winds on the 6th and a brief arctic air mass around Thanksgiving. Weather information was obtained from National Weather Service monthly summaries for the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport.

The highlight from the fall waterfowl season was clearly the Region's third **Tufted Duck** record. Sue Barth found a female among scaup on the Buffalo waterfront at LaSalle Park on 18 November. The duck was regular but never a 'sure thing' at this location into early December. It's notable that all Regional sightings have been of immatures or females and all since 2013.

An early **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found on 19 September, and there were several other fall reports consistent with recent years. There were a few **Brant** reports away from Lake Ontario, including one that stayed at Black Rock Canal Park and four at Times Beach Nature Preserve that allowed easy sightings for many birders. There were also the more usual sightings along Lake Ontario. A **Eurasian Wigeon** was documented among many American Wigeon on 21 October at Iroquois NWR by Celeste Morien. Fall reports of Eurasian

Wigeon have been rare even as spring reports are on an increasing trend. **Harlequin Ducks** returned again to the rapids above Niagara Falls, where regular in recent years. Thirty **Black Scoters** at Dunkirk Harbor on 5 October are notable for number, location, and for being on the early side. An **Eared Grebe** was found at Batavia WWTP in October, keeping the annual trend alive for occurrence at this location back into the 1990s.

I'm often skeptical of 'heard only' cuckoo reports in the fall, as I know some birders mistake chipmunk calls for them, but they do occur into October. This season provided a surprising ten reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (plus one **Black-billed Cuckoo**) in September and October, including some with photographs. Whether this is an anomaly related to the warm weather and/or related to increased presence is uncertain. There were three Chimney Swifts identified at Batavia WWTP on 12 November, marking a late record for this species. Again, we have to wonder if the warm summer and early fall had something to do with it.

Alec Humann identified the fall season's lone **Upland Sandpiper** by its call at night as it flew over Buffalo on 6 September. The Buffalo Waterfront hosted a **Whimbrel**, one or two **Red Knots**, and one or more **Willets** in September. Four Willets were also found at Dunkirk Harbor on 1 September. A smattering of **Baird's Sandpiper** and **White-rumped Sandpiper** reports occurred in the fall season as usual.

Perhaps the most notable item with gulls this season was the relatively low number of both small and large gulls on the Niagara River compared to usual seasons. The maximum Bonaparte's Gull count was only 750, while the usual large influx of Herring Gull and other large gull species didn't occur in November. There were late arrivals and low report numbers for Iceland and Glaucous Gulls. A few sightings of some uncommon but regular fall species kept things interesting. There were one to three **Black-legged Kittiwakes** on the Niagara River and one **Sabine's Gull** report at Buffalo. One to two Little Gulls were found at Batavia WWTP in late October, an unusual location. **Franklin's Gulls** were found on consecutive days in Somerset and at Woodlawn Beach SP. The last Common Tern report was 19 November, and there were four **Forster's Tern** reports this season. **Parasitic Jaegers** were reported on five occasions from Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

Four reports of **Cattle Egret** were good and consistent in the window of mid-October to early November. There were up to five **Black Vultures** in Lewiston this season and two reports of two in nearby Lockport. Rough-legged Hawk was scarce this fall.

An early **Snowy Owl** was sighted in Wilson on 21 October. The only other reports were of one at Lakeside Beach SP and up to three throughout November on the Buffalo Waterfront. **Long-eared Owls** were found in Colden and Porter, while **Short-eared Owls** were found at three locations. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were identified in three locations, including the Erie Basin Marina in Buffalo where Shelley Seidman watched a Cooper's Hawk take one as prey.

Josh Ketry found a **Western Kingbird** in the Town of Concord on 17 October. It stuck around for another week allowing many birders to get a look at our tenth Regional record of this species. A **Least Flycatcher** was documented at Times Beach NP until the slightly late date of 4 October. September reports included four of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and seven of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**. Two Red-eyed Vireo sightings in early November were late. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were present in good numbers at Niagara Falls SP and held on until the third week of November.

Evening Grosbeaks made their best showing in the last ten or so years, delighting those whose feeders were visited. It was apparent that the grosbeaks were not sticking around for long, as the feeder visits were a few days at most. Single **Pine Grosbeaks** were found in late November near the Lake Ontario shoreline for the first Regional records since 2013. David Crowe photographed a **Red Crossbill** at Hanging Bog WMA on 19 October, also marking our first record since 2013. There were seven reports of **Common Redpolls**, and **Pine Siskins** were fairly regular but not in huge numbers this fall. American Goldfinches were also on the move, with migration flights noted along Lake Ontario in late October and early November.

Clay-colored Sparrow was found at Olcott into September, while Sue Barth photographed a migrant at Times Beach NP. Two **Grasshopper Sparrow** reports were more than usual for this species in fall. There were two **Baltimore Oriole** reports beyond the normal September departures, including feeder visitors in Hamburg in October and Orchard Park in November.

The warm weather and delayed fall foliage may have had something to do with some later warbler reports than normal. The season's only **Golden-winged Warbler** was late at 29 September. A **Connecticut Warbler** was found by Gale VerHague at Canadaway Creek WMA on the late side at 13 October. Most remarkable was a female **Hooded Warbler** photographed by Wendy Bale in her Kiantone yard on 17 and 18 November, our latest record. There were several **Yellow Warbler** reports later than typical, including one that lingered at Times Beach NP until 18 November.

The 83rd BOS October Count was held on the 13th and compiled by Marcie Jacklin. A total of 190 birders contributed to recording 157 species. Record high counts included two Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 22 Sandhill Crane, 928 Turkey Vulture, 32 Cooper's Hawk, 288 Red-bellied Woodpecker (up from last year's record of 256), and 245 Northern Rough-winged Swallow. American Black Duck had a record low of 34 (down from last year's record low of 43), and Ring-necked Pheasant had a record low of four.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BOSOC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society 13 Oct Count; **BuFH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JAS** – Jamestown Audubon Society, CHAU; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NPP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R, ERIE/NIAG; **OWOMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tifft NP** – Tifft Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr INWR 29 Sep; 5 BOSOC; max 5 Alfred ALLE 19 Nov; six other reports 1-2 each.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr Wilson NIAG 19 Sep (WD!), early; 3, 3 INWR 6, 10 Oct; max 3, 4 Oakfield GENE 21-23, 30 Oct.

Brant: arr 1, 8 Buffalo NR 28 Sep-2 Oct, 20 Oct; 4 TBNP 14-23 Oct; DH 19 Oct; 3 PB 20 Oct; 5 GHSP 27 Oct; max 50 LBSP 26 Oct; 18 Somerset NIAG 28 Oct.

Cackling Goose: arr BuFH 27-30 Sep; 3 Middleport NIAG 6 Oct; max Oakfield GENE 21 Oct; 10 Lyndonville NIAG 25 Oct; BWWTP 6 Nov; Cuba L ALLE 8, 12 Nov; GHSP 24 Nov.

Mute Swan: 7 WTSP 20 Oct; DH 2 Oct-19 Nov; max 8 FNSP 11 Nov; Cassadaga CHAU 25 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: 6-9 INWR 3-27 Oct, cont from summer.

Tundra Swan: arr 2 TWMA 24 Oct; max 320 NFSP 23 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 222 TWMA 11 Sep; 108 BWWTP 11 Sep.

Blue-winged Teal: max 15 INWR 6 Oct; last OOWMA 3 Nov.

N. Shoveler: max 202, 221 BWWTP 6, 23 Oct. **Gadwall:** max 75 Tifft NP 18 Oct.

EURASIAN WIGEON (R1): INWR 21 Oct (CM ph), rarely reported in fall.

Am. Wigeon: max 200, 250 INWR 10, 21 Oct.

Am. Black Duck: 34 BOSOC, record low for 2nd straight year; max 22 Wilson NIAG 17 Oct.

N. Pintail: max 253 INWR 19 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 240 INWR 21 Oct.

Canvasback: arr 3 BOSOC; max 7200 NFSP 23 Nov (CW, JBA).

Redhead: max 376, 1200 Ellery ChauL 25 Oct, 18 Nov (WS); 300 Buffalo NR 30 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 Buffalo ERIE 30 Sep; max 220 INWR 6 Oct.

TUFTED DUCK: f BufH 18-30 Nov (SBa! mob); third Reg record.

Greater Scaup: arr Buffalo NR 3 Sep; max 500 NF 20 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: arr DH 29 Sep; max 1000 Ellery ChauL 25 Oct (WS).

Harlequin Duck: arr 3 NFSP 4, 25 Nov (TK, mob); regular at this location in recent years.

Surf Scoter: arr Somerset NIAG, Olcott NIAG 29 Oct; max 31 Buffalo NR 15 Oct; 25 Wilson NIAG 17 Oct; N Harmony CHAU 13 Nov (KV); DH 19 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: arr 5 GHSP 27 Sep; max 532 Wilson NIAG 17 Oct; Ellery ChauL 18 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr, max 30 DH 5 Oct; 6 Buffalo NR 17 Oct; 2 LBSP 23 Oct; 5 Somerset NIAG 28 Oct; 6 BufH 3 Nov; Ellery ChauL 18 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 13 BOSOC; 300 BufH 23 Oct; Olean CATT (KH), unusual loc; max 325 Lewiston NR 23 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr Amherst ERIE 6 Oct; max 600 BufH 26 Oct; 400 Buffalo NR 26 Oct; 115 Cuba L ALLE 11 Nov; 326 Ellery ChauL 12 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 7 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; max 750 NFSP 25 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 111, 125 INWR 25 Oct, 9 Nov; max 236 Ellery ChauL 11 Nov; 115 Cuba L ALLE 11 Nov; 110 S Dayton CATT 22 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 500 DH 5 Oct.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 405 GHSP 24 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 11, 494, 238 BWWTP 11 Sep, 17 Oct, 1 Nov; 71 Cuba L ALLE 25 Oct; 50 S Dayton CATT 4 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 30 INWR.

Horned Grebe: arr BuSP 19 Sep; max 100, 161 WoBSP 25, 26 Oct; 46 LBSP 26 Oct; 26 DH 19 Nov; 26 BufH 30 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 3, 9 GHSP 3, 30 Oct; 2 Ellery ChauL 25 Oct; Cuba L ALLE 30 Oct; 1, 2 DH 11, 19 Nov; Buffalo NR 17 Nov; 6 LBSP 20 Nov; Grand I NR ERIE 22 Nov; max 13 GHSP 24 Nov; BufH 24, 30 Nov.

Eared Grebe: BWWTP 5-21 Oct (KG); regular at this location.

Mourning Dove: 253 TWMA 11 Sep (WD, CM), high count.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: ten Sep & Oct rpts, more than usual; last NFSP 16 Oct.

Black-billed Cuckoo: last Arkwright CHAU 23 Sep (GV).

Com. Nighthawk: max 11 TWMA 11 Sep; last 4 OOWMA 25 Sep.

Chimney Swift: 19, 2 Yates ORLE 22, 25 Oct (WD); 5 INWR 25 Oct (PH); last 3 BWWTP 12 Nov (WT, DM, JP); later reports than usual.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Grand I ERIE 11 Oct.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: last INWR 6 Oct.

Sora: 2 JAS 12 Sep; last 2 BWWTP 6 Oct.

Com. Gallinule: max 19, last 1 INWR 15 Sep, 20 Oct.

Am. Coot: max 155, 251 Celoron ChauL 5, 30 Oct; 53 INWR 24 Oct; 127 N Harmony ChauL 1 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: 2 OOWMA 2 Sep; INWR 14 Sep; Ellery CHAU 5 Oct (JBe); max 6, 9 INWR 13, 18 Oct; 2 TWMA 25 Oct.

Black-bellied Plover: max 4 Wilson NIAG 15 Oct; last 2 Celeron ChauL 17 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 8 Basom GENE 4 Sep; last 2 Wilson NIAG 15 Oct.

Semipalmented Plover: max 16 TWMA 28 Sep; last BWWTP 22 Oct.

Killdeer: max 134 Oakfield GENE 2 Sep.

Upland Sandpiper: last Buffalo ERIE 6 Sep (AH), nocturnal flight call.

Whimbrel: BufH 3 Sep (JK, SSI), only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 Buffalo NR 1 Sep; max 3, 8 BufH 6, 16 Sep (AH).

Red Knot: Buffalo NR 1-3 Sep (AH); BufH 18 Sep (JK); only reports.

Sanderling: max 15, last 2 BufH 16 Sep, 4 Nov.

Dunlin: max 55 John White WMA GENE 23 Oct; last NFSP 25 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: max 4 INWR 2 Sep; Somerset NIAG 10 Sep; Buffalo NR 10 Sep; only reports.

Least Sandpiper: max 25 TWMA 28 Sep; last 2 INWR 18 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Wilson NIAG 16 Sep; INWR 30 Sep; TWMA 18 Oct; max 3 Oakfield GENE 21 Oct; last Lockport NIAG 24, 26 Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 16 INWR 2 Sep; max 60 TWMA 18 Oct; last Newstead ERIE 1 Nov (JM).

Semipalmented Sandpiper: max 17 BufH 16 Sep; last BWWTP 27 Oct.

Dowitcher species: 4 TWMA 2 Sep, only dowitcher report.

Wilson's Snipe: max 33 Amherst ERIE 18 Oct, 21, last 1 Lockport NIAG 18 Oct, 4 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: last Buffalo ERIE 25 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last INWR 11 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 30 INWR 2 Sep; last Cuba L ALLE 12 Nov.

Willet: max 4 DH 1 Sep; 1, 1, 1 BufH 6, 7, 14 Sep.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 22 TWMA 28 Sep; last Cuba L ALLE 15 Nov.

Parasitic Jaeger: arr GHSP 27 Sep (WD); Wilson NIAG 17 Oct (WD); LBSP 26 Oct (CM); Hamburg ERIE 3 Nov (JM); BufH 7 Nov (KR).

Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 1, 1, 1 Buffalo NR 29, 31 Oct, 23 Nov; only reports.

Sabine's Gull: Buffalo NR 31 Oct (KR, TM), only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: 750 Buffalo NR 15 Oct; max 1000 Hanover CHAU 26 Oct; 500 NPP 11 Nov; 600 Lewiston NR 22 Nov; relatively low numbers on NR for season.

Little Gull: 2-3 Buffalo NR 13 Oct-28 Nov; 1-2 BWWTP 21 Oct-1 Nov (DB, CR, MT, mob), unusual location; Wilson NIAG 23 Oct; max 6 BufH 10 Nov (JM); Ellery ChauL 12 Nov (WS), unusual location; 1, 1 Lewiston NR 12, 29 Nov.

Franklin's Gull: Somerset NIAG 22 Oct (WD); WoBSP 23-25 Oct (SBa); only reports.

Iceland Gull: arr GHSP 23 Nov, late arrival.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 4, 7 NFSP 17 Sep, 23 Nov; 1, 2 WoBSP 18 & 30 Sep, 5 Oct; 4, 2 Cuba L ALLE 4 Oct, 10 & 30 Nov; Celoron ChauL 29 Nov (KV).

Glaucous Gull: arr Buffalo NR 11 Nov; NFSP 29 Nov; only reports.

Caspian Tern: max 27 DH 11 Sep; last 2 BWWTP 14 Oct.

Com. Tern: max 70 DH 11 Sep, 70, 40 Grand Island NR 16 Oct, 2 Nov; 31 Buffalo NR 27 Oct; last 2 BufH 19 Nov.

Forster's Tern: max 2 Hamburg ERIE 13 Sep; BufH 13 Sep; DH 29 Sep; INWR 18 Oct.

LOONS - PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: arr GHSP 12 Oct; Buffalo NR 21 Oct; max 33 GHSP 24 Nov; BufH 30 Nov.

Com. Loon: Buffalo NR 8 Sep; 25 GHSP 25 Sep; max 51 Wilson NIAG 24 Oct; 23 PG 12 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1200, 1527 BufH 16 Sep, 20 Oct.

Am. Bittern: last 3 INWR 6 Oct.

Least Bittern: 1-3 TBNP 2-14 Sep (SSI); 3 INWR 2 Sep (AG); last OOWMA 18 Oct (MR).

Great Egret: max 421 TWMA 15 Sep (CM); last INWR 9 Nov.

Cattle Egret: INWR 10 Oct (CM); Busti CHAU 22, 28 Oct (TL, JBe); BufH 2 Nov (DM; MK); DH 2 Nov (GV); continues trend of good showing in recent years.

Green Heron: last BOSOC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Buffalo NR 2 Nov; BufH 18, 19 Nov; only reports beyond Oct.

Black Vulture: 3, 5 Lewiston NIAG 9 Sep, 29 Nov, regular at location; 2 Lockport NIAG 18, 22 Oct (J&AS, MG).

Osprey: last Orchard Park ERIE 3 Nov (CB).

Bald Eagle: widespread reports; 43 BOSOC.

Broad-winged Hawk: Arkwright CHAU 23 Sep; Fredonia CHAU 9 Oct; last BOSOC.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr INWR 17 Oct; few reports.

Snowy Owl: arr Wilson NIAG 21 Oct (MF), early; LBSP 2 Nov; 1-3 BufH 3-30 Nov.

Barred Owl: Tifft NP 25 Oct (DS), unusual loc.

Long-eared Owl: Colden ERIE 18 Sep (SH); Porter NIAG 25 Nov (PY); only reports.

Short-eared Owl: arr GHSP 30 Oct; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 29 Nov; max 2 Shelby ORLE 29 Nov; only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1, 2 banded Wethersfield WYOM 4, 13 Oct (DJ); BufH 22 Oct (SSI), taken by Cooper's Hawk; Alden ERIE 9 Nov (JM).

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 5 FNSP 20 Sep; 4 EvSP 8 Oct; Sheridan CHAU 12 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: last RWNP 17 Sep.

Myiarchus flycatcher: Carlton Hill MUA WYOM BOSOC; likely late Great Crested but could not rule out Ash-throated based on description.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: HBWMA 5 Sep; last Arkwright CHAU, FLC, GHSP 8 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: last 2 BOSOC.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Alma ALLE 15 Sep; 6 other reports; good showing.

Least Flycatcher: last TBNP 1-4 Oct (SBa), late.

E. Phoebe: last AmSP 19 Nov.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Concord ERIE 17-24 Oct (JK, mob), 10th Reg record.

E. Kingbird: last Grand Island ERIE 16 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr Somerset NIAG 22 Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last HBWMA ALLE 23 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last Unity I ERIE & Carlton ORLE 26 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last BuSP 27 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: last WoBSP BOSOC (SBa ph).

Red-eyed Vireo: Wilson NIAG 4 Nov (MM); Wales ERIE 9 Nov (CC, ph); late.

Com. Raven: becoming more regular throughout Reg.

Horned Lark: max 164 Wellsville ALLE 22 Nov.

Purple Martin: last 2 Chautauqua CHAU 2 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 180 INWR 6 Oct; last 3, 2 BWWTP 12, 20 Nov.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 400, 350, last 5 NFSP 22 Sep, 24 Oct, 18 Nov.

Bank Swallow: last 5 WoBSP 10 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last WoBSP 10 Sep.

Barn Swallow: max 80 BWWTP 11 Sep; last 2 Shelby ORLE 9 Oct.

House Wren: last TBNP 22 Oct.

Winter Wren: arr AmSP 20 Sep.

Marsh Wren: OOWMA 3 Nov; Tonawanda ERIE 18 Nov; only reports beyond Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last TBNP 15 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr AmSP 12 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr AmSP & Orchard Park ERIE 9 Sep.

Veery: last AmSP 25 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 12 AISP 5 Oct (SM, PL), nocturnal flight calls; last 2 LBSP 14 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: last Arkwright CHAU 23 Oct.

Wood Thrush: last Tiffet NP 27 Sep.

Brown Thrasher: last BufH 20 Oct.

Gray Catbird: BWWTP 12 Nov; RWNP 19 Nov; only reports beyond Oct.

Am. Pipit: arr Grand Island ERIE 24 Sep; max 35 Sheridan CHAU 7 Oct; max 35 Cuba L ALLE 13 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: arr Somerset NIAG 30 Oct; WTSP 31 Oct; 6 Attica WYOM 3 Nov; 7 Orchard Park ERIE 11 Nov; max 11 Alfred ALLE 18 Nov; 5 Caneadea ALLE 22 Nov; 10 Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 25 Nov; 1-4 at 10 other locs in Nov.

Pine Grosbeak: arr Wilson NIAG 23 Nov (WD); Olcott NIAG 29 Nov (WD, BP); first reports since 2013.

Purple Finch: max 16 Wellsville ALLE 21 Oct.

Com. Redpoll: arr 4 LBSP 30 Oct; max 11 WTSP 31 Oct; five Nov reports.

Red Crossbill: HBWMA 19 Oct (DC ph), first report since 2013.

Pine Siskin: Lakewood CHAU 14 Sep (TS); Wilson NIAG 16 Sep (BP); max 25 Cattaraugus CATT 3 Nov; fairly regular in Oct, Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: max 126 LBSP 4 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: arr Buffalo NR 19 Oct; Lockport NIAG 26 Oct; 3 Attica WYOM 29 Oct; 1, 3 Sheridan CHAU 2, 21 Nov; 2, 1 Java WYOM 17, 18 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr 12 Yates ORLE 20 Oct; max 35 Attica WYOM 23 Nov.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS –

CARDINALIDS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 3 Ellery CHAU 19 Oct.

Chipping Sparrow: 3 loc Nov.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Olcott NIAG 11 Sep (WD, BP), continued from summer, breeding location; TBNP 24 Sep (SBa ph).

Field Sparrow: TBNP 5 Nov, only report beyond Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: BufH 21 Oct; 2 BWWTP 21 Oct (DB); only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: INWR 14 Sep (CM); last Newfane NIAG 8 Oct (JS); not often reported in fall.

Fox Sparrow: arr 2 BOSOC; max 6 INWR 21 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr GHSP 2 Sep; last Arkwright CHAU 23 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: arr INWR 7 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr HBWMA 28 Sep.

Bobolink: max 36 INWR 2 Sep; last 2 Sherman CHAU 3 Sep.

Baltimore Oriole: Hamburg ERIE 26 Oct (JV); Orchard Park ERIE 17, 18 Nov (R&LM, RF ph); late, feeder visitors.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 6000 OOWMA 1 Nov (MW).

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 TBNP & Tiffet NP 23 Sep; max 35 TWMA 30 Oct.

Com. Grackle: max 9000 OOWMA 1 Nov (MW).

Ovenbird: last TBNP 3 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: last Leon CATT 14 Oct.

Golden-winged Warbler: BuSP 29 Sep (AH), late, only report.

Blue-winged Warbler: last HBWMA 17 Sep.

"Brewster's" Warbler: GHSP 2 Sep (BP, WD), rarely reported in fall.

Black-and-white Warbler: last Bond Lake CP NIAG 2 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: last Buffalo ERIE 25 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr BWWTP 18 Sep; last AmSP 26 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: max 9 BuSP 11 Sep; last AmSP 26 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU BOSOC (GV); on the late side.

Mourning Warbler: four Sep reports.

Com. Yellowthroat: last Carlton ORLE 26 Oct.

Hooded Warbler: Kiantone CHAU 17, 18 Nov (WB ph), record late.

Am. Redstart: last WoSP 25 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last 4 BOSOC.

N. Parula: last TBNP 5 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: last Tifft NP 18 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last BeSP 17 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last TBNP 3 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: Tifft NP 27 Sep; 3 DH 30 Sep (GV); last TBNP 2, 3 Oct, 18 Nov (SBA ph), late.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last AmSP 30 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: last NFSP 24 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Amherst ERIE 21 Oct.

Palm Warbler: arr BWWTP 4 Sep; last WoBSP 28 Oct.

Pine Warbler: last Forestville CHAU 1 Nov (GV), only report beyond Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 11, 6 BuSP 12, 28 Nov; GHSP 23 Nov; Grand Island ERIE 29 Nov.

Prairie Warbler: last Alfred ALLE 9 Sep (FB), banded.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last 3 BOSOC.

Canada Warbler: last TBNP 14 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: last Lewiston NIAG 21 Oct (WD ph), late.

Scarlet Tanager: last TBNP 3 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Orchard Park ERIE 25 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: GHSP 18 Sep; last TBNP 16 Oct.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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Another warm and pleasant fall through October, then the other shoe dropped. September was warm, with temperatures above average on 22 days and the average 67.7°F, 5.9° above normal. There were two records hit, with a high minimum of 73° on the 2nd a tie with the old record, and 92° on the 21st both a record high and the 22nd 90+ day for the year. Precipitation at 2.81" was 0.57" below average. October extended the warmth another 10 days, then turned cold and damp. Temperatures averaged 50.9°, 0.3° above normal. The period from the 8th-10th saw three days in a row above 80°, with record highs set on the 9th and 10th and the 72° on the 9th an all-time high for October. Two to three inches of rain fell in the first 10 days followed by cold, gray skies and much light rain and drizzle for the rest of the month; the official total was 3.38", 1.11" above normal. The first snow fell right on normal on the 18th, but only 0.1". The first freeze occurred on 30 October. November gave us a taste of a good, old-fashioned early winter month—mostly cool, cloudy, and damp. Temperatures averaged 36.4°, 4.1° below normal. A drop to 7° on Thanksgiving on the 22nd was the coldest on record for that holiday, and a drop to 4° the next morning was

the coldest ever for that early in the season. Precipitation totaled 4.54", 1.60" above normal, with snowfall 17.4", 10.1" above normal. The cold and snow resulted in many ponds and bays freezing and pushing out many of the waterfowl.

Generally this season, we saw a continuation of recent trends—warmth extending later, leaves coloring and falling later, waterfowl slow to arrive and in generally lower numbers, and reduced banding numbers. However, we ended the season with a surprise taste of winter. Records submitted, now mainly through eBird, were enhanced by the NYSOA annual meeting held in Rochester on 5-7 October. The number of eBird lines of data for that month increased to about 30,786, 50% above the number for October 2017, while September and November downloads were more typical at 23,432 and 20,781, respectively. Species counts for the months were all well above their 10-year averages: September – 221 vs. 215.8, October – 214 vs. 203.0, a new record high, and November – 160 vs. 151.8. Interestingly, few rarities were located this fall and many of those noted are fairly regular now, just scarce enough to warrant noting.

And now on to working through the new checklist order for a second time; still starts with the Waterfowl. Essentially all expected waterfowl species were at least reported in each month. However, waterfowl continued their clear trends to generally later fall arrivals and lower peak counts. The best early peak counts for puddle ducks came from the Van Dyne Spoor area of the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) in southern Wayne County. The best counts were for American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal in October. Also in October, there was a nice gathering of waterfowl on Round Pond in the Town of Greece, with a male Eurasian Wigeon present from 1 October-5 November. This collection also included some diving ducks, with 275 Ring-necked Ducks on 23 October a good count for there. Otherwise, diving ducks were typically noted in low peak counts, with the best passing the Hamlin Beach State Park lakewatch, many on 11 November: Long-tailed Duck – 3,730, Red-breasted Merganser – 6,245, and Horned Grebe – 178. Bill Howe also noted a good flock of 348 Hooded Mergansers on Honeoye Lake on 18 November. A Red-necked Grebe count of 81 on 21 November would have been good historically, but recently fall peak counts have jumped dramatically, as will be seen for December. Snow Goose, Brant, and Cackling Goose each continued their trend to early arrival in later September, and Greater White-fronted Goose was located by Rick Stevens at two locations in Wyoming County in early November. Both King Eider and Harlequin Duck were reported in November.

In the new checklist order, we next arrive at the goatsuckers, with no really good counts for Common Nighthawk but a 9 October departure. Once again, Chimney Swifts massed at the York Central School in Greigsville, Livingston County, with Jim Kimball noting a peak of 540 there on 4 October. Chimney Swifts continued on for a new record late date on 22 October by Bill Howe in the Town of Canadice, Ontario County, quickly surpassed by even later records

from Durand-Eastman Park in Rochester on 30 October (Sheryl Gracewski and Mike Gullo) and 2 November (Dick Horsey). Ruby-throated Hummingbird made it to 6 October, but an intriguing, unidentified hummingbird was seen on 20 October in the Town of Conesus, Livingston County by Lynne Parsons. Touching on the rails and relatives, notable are: up to 500 Common Gallinules still being counted in the Van Dyne Spoor area to 22 September, with 321 American Coot reported there on 9 October, and Sandhill Cranes at several areas through season's end, with a maximum of 59 along Armitage Road in the NMWMA on 2 November.

This fall, shorebird diversity was reasonably good through the season, though counts were poor. An example is the high count of only 26 for American Golden-Plover. There was a decent count of 155 Dunlin in October and 76 into November, but these are still poor by historical standards. There were no other counts of note. Interesting reports included: Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper in September; Red Phalarope early on 9-12 September and then again on 23 October; and Wilson's Phalarope to a record late 11 October at the south end of Irondequoit Bay. Shorebird departures were at typical dates, with 10 species present into November, though surprisingly neither Black-bellied Plover nor American Golden-Plover made it past late October. The Larids too provided little of great note. It was a decent fall for jaegers, though only Parasitic Jaeger (16 reports) was identified to species, with eight other reports of jaeger species. Three Parasitic Jaegers were noted passing the lakewatch on three different dates. A lone immature Black-legged Kittiwake was spotted on 10 November. Passing Bonaparte's Gulls were low in number, but there were some good congregations on mudflats at Northrup Creek, Salmon Creek, and at Irondequoit Bay south. Among the rarer gulls, adult Little Gulls were noted passing the Hamlin Beach lakewatch, at Northrup Creek, at Buck Pond in Greece, and at the south end of Irondequoit Bay, with the total approximately eight. An immature Laughing Gull was found at Hamlin Beach on 24 September and seen by five observers. Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers were typical of recent years, with 7, 4, and 12 for the respective months of the season. Both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls arrived at typical mid-November dates. Tern numbers and departure dates were also typical. As usual, details for these regular occurrences will be noted in the species section.

In the new order, we now move to loons, where a good count of 1,977 Red-throated Loons was tallied at Hamlin Beach on 11 November, as usual later than the peak Common Loon maximum on 20 October, though that latter count was a relatively poor 230. Also on 11 November, the group of Jessie Barry, Andy Guthrie, and Chris Wood spotted a rare **Pacific Loon** off the Hamlin Beach lakewatch. Good counts of Double-crested Cormorant were also noted passing the lakewatch, with 1,110 on 15 September and 1,065 on 13 October, but there were also 2,200 off Slater Creek in Greece on 23 October. Among the herons, Mitchell Barry found a record late Least Bittern at Buck Pond, Greece on 21 November, subsequently seen by other family members. A Great Egret

showed up late at Round Pond, Greece from 17-20 November. An immature Little Blue Heron was found at the south end of Irondequoit Bay by Peggy Mabb on 13 September and stayed until the 18th to be seen by many. Again, Cattle Egrets made an early November appearance, with birds seen at the Armitage Road area of the NMWMA on 2 November, Pocock Road, Town of Bergen on 3 November, and in the Town of Williamson, Wayne County on 13 November.

Among the raptors, there were singles of Black Vulture reported on 30 September in Caledonia and 25 October in Victor; an Osprey to the late date of 9 November; good numbers of Bald Eagles; three reports of Northern Goshawk; a very early Rough-legged Hawk on 28 September, with the next on 20 October, and only a few more in November; and a rare, fall Golden Eagle seen by Dave Odell at his B & B, the old Duck Inn, near the NMWMA on 8 October. Snowy Owl arrived at Sodus Point on 28 October, but there were only two more locations with later reports, Braddock Bay on 3-6 November and north of Batavia on 29-30 November. Short-eared Owl was first reported on 8 November, but by 20 November, the first DEC owl survey tallied 20 birds. Typically there are few fall N. Saw-whet Owl reports for this Region, so two in September and a banded bird at Braddock Bay on 10 October were good. We have had serious fall banding efforts on occasion with many more than these numbers banded.

Finally, the passerine story also continues with recent trends influenced by weather and bird population trends. In both September and October, essentially all expected passerine species were recorded. A very few that might have seemed missing for October, on checking, were seen to only occasionally persist into that month. There were very few good counts for any species this season. There were a good number of late individuals into November, with Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Wood Thrush, Fox Sparrow, and Pine Warbler interesting. Record late species included a Warbling Vireo in the Van Dyne Spoor area on 24 October and two *empidonax* flycatchers, one by Wade and Melissa Rowley in the Van Dyne Spoor area on 2 November and one by Robert, Susan, and Cathy Spahn in the Yanty Creek area of Hamlin Beach SP on 12 November. Unfortunately, in neither case were photographs obtained, and identification to species was not made. Overall, there were good numbers of later species suggested by 22 species of warblers into October or later and 21 half-hardy species recorded in November. Still, new bands at BBBO were at their lowest level in the past eight years and only Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo, and Purple Finch were banded in numbers statistically significantly above their averages for those years. Sample numbers are included in the species section. Rare passserines included: the Region's third **Say's Phoebe** found at the East Spit of Braddock Bay by Eunice Thein on 21 September and seen by many observers on that and the next day; a Cave Swallow photographed by Mike Gullo at Sodus Point on 9 November; Nelson's Sparrow at Burger Park on 14-15 October found by Mike Gullo and Pat Martin and seen by at least 11 others;

and a Dickcissel heard by Andy Guthrie near his home in the Town of Hamlin on 15 September.

Looking to some of the possible late fall-early winter irruptive species, we see decent numbers of Northern Shrike beginning on 3 October; a little burst of Red-breasted Nuthatches in September but not persisting; several Bohemian Waxwing reports in November; and then a tantalizing start to the winter finches. Evening Grosbeak arrived on 26 October and then was seen off and on through November in small numbers, never persisting long in one location but totaling about 67 individuals, the best showing in many years. A female Pine Grosbeak spent much of the period 24-30 November in the orchard area of Durand-Eastman Park, with birders searching for it also reporting both crossbills. Common Redpoll was also hit and miss, but a high count was a flock of 140. We could hope for more to come next season!

In summary, an interesting season with enough to keep birders looking and many eyes still detecting nearly all the expected species. The trends to falls staying warmer later and counts of individuals for most species lower continue.

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; **BB** – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB-ES** – east spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, usually banding station near end of Manitou Beach Rd west of Braddock Bay; **BCH** – Bear Creek Harbor and off shore, WAYN; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-WE** – West End Trail in HB includes Devil's Nose area; **HB-YC** – Yanty Creek trail area at east end of park; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – LaSalle Landing P, South end of Irondequoit Bay; **M** – along Manitou Beach Rd NE of Lake Ontario Parkway including the BBBO banding station, MONR; **MAC** – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P MONR; **NC** – Northrup Creek mudflats and marsh south of Long Pnd, Greece; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA (formerly Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex), WAYN; **NMWMA (MRd)** – Morgan Rd Marshes area; **NMWMA (SCU)** – Sandhill Crane Unit; **NMWMA (VDS)** – Van Dyne Spoor area; **OB** – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; **OCP** – Oatka Creek P, MONR; **PB** – Point Breeze area, ORLE, n. border of Regions 1 & 2; **SalC** – Salmon Creek mudflats area inland from BB;

SPt – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, Avon DEC; **W** – Town of Webster, MONR; **WP** – Webster P, MONR.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr 11 Irondequoit 23 Sep, early; max 80 Honeoye Rd, T Canadice ONTA 21 Nov.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr Burke Hill & Smith Rds WYOM 8 Nov (RSt, ph); Silver Lake-N WYOM (RSt).

Brant: arr 15 off Greece & 130 SPT 24 Sep (JiB & MG, W&MR), early; max 138 HB 21 Oct, low; last IBO 11-14 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr HB 22 Sep (AGa, *et al.*, ph), early; max 17 HB 2 Nov (AGu); 15 Jacobs Rd, H 20 Oct (AGu); ~38 ind 8 loc 4-30 Oct; ~61 ind 12 loc 2-27 Nov; good showing.

Canada Goose: max 7000 TCEA 6 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 184 IB – N 19 Nov (AGu, TH, CW).

Trumpeter Swan: max 25 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 24 Nov (JGo).

Tundra Swan: arr 16 Round Pd, G 18 Oct; max 118 CL 15 Nov (TBo).

Wood Duck: max 67 NMWMA (MRd) 1 Sep, low fall max.

Blue-winged Teal: max 50 NMWMA (VDS) 22 Sep & NMWMA (SCU) 13 Oct; last 2 SalC 25 Oct.

N. Shoveler: max 125 NMWMA (VDS) 7 Oct (LBe, RB), good count; 28 Round Pd, G 12 Nov (KGr), good count for date.

Gadwall: max 200 NMWMA (VDS) 13 Oct (STo, MKir, WVH); 194 NC 21 Nov (CW).

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 m Round Pd, G 1 Oct-5 Nov (JMi, LMa, mob).

Am. Wigeon: max 1350 NMWMA (SCU) 12 Oct (AVK); 460 Round Pd, G 3 Nov (JeB, CW); 400 Round Pnd, G 8 Oct (LBe, RB, CGI, NK); good counts.

Mallard: max 2500 NMWMA (SCU) 12 Oct (AVK).

Am. Black Duck: max 80 Eagle Cliff WAYN (MG).

N. Pintail: max 1250 NMWMA (VDS) 7 Nov (LBe, RB) HB 16 Oct, low max.

Green-winged Teal: max 800 NMWMA (SCU) 12 Oct (AVK).

dabbling ducks: 5000 NMWMA (VDS) 16 Oct (DK).

Canvasback: arr 3 HB 12 Oct.

Redhead: max 2500 CL 17 Nov (JK).

Ring-necked Duck: 275 Round Pd, G 21 Oct (KGr); max 400 Hemlock L 29 Nov (BHo).

Greater Scaup: arr 4 HB 8 Sep; max 400 IBO 25 Nov (NK), low max.

Lesser Scaup: arr IBO 10 Sep; max 70 Sodus Bay 2 Nov, low max.

King Eider: 1 f HB 11 Nov (JeB, CW).

Harlequin Duck: arr Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 5 Nov (W&MR); 2 imm f HB21 Nov (CW).

Surf Scoter: arr HB 22 Sep; max 24 HB 13 Oct, low max.

White-winged Scoter: arr HB 5 Sep; max 481 HB 11 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr 3 SPt 1 Oct; max 7 HB 5 Nov, very low max.

Long-tailed Duck: arr HB 12 Oct; max 3730 HB 11 Nov (JeB, CW, AGu, PMar).

Bufflehead: arr 4 Groveland Hill Rd LIVI 11 Oct; 140 CL 17 Nov (JK); max 165 SPt 25 Nov (TH, CW).

Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 6 Oct; max 192 Hemlock L LIVI 29 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 348 Honeoye L ONTA 18 Nov (BHo); 214 IB – S 21 Nov (CW); good counts.

Com. Merganser: max 200 Buck Pnd, G 21 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 6245 HB 11 Nov (JeB, CW, AGu, PM); 5000 Buck Pnd, G 20 Nov (RSp).

Ruddy Duck: BB-ES 6 Sep (BCar), early; max 90 Silver L – S WYOM 26 Oct; 80 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye ONTA 30 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr HB 5 Sep; max 178 HB 11 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: max 81 HB 21 Nov (CW), low relative to recent late peaks, *intro*.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last BB – Burger P 18 Oct (SGr).

Com. Nighthawk: last 3 Crittenden P Rochester 9 Oct.

Chimney Swift: 350 Piffard LIVI 16 Sep (RMi); 480 York Central School, Greigsville 24 Sep (JK); max 540 York Central School, Greigsville 4 Oct (JK); last 2 Purcell Rd, T Canadice ONTA 22 Oct (BHo), Reg record late; 2 DE 30 Oct (SGr, MG) & 2 DE 2 Nov (DH), Reg record late.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Leicester LIVI & North Rush MONR 6 Oct.

hummingbird sp.: T Conesus LIVI 20 Oct (LP), intriguing, but not ID'd to species.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: last 2 BB – Burger P 13 Oct.
Sora: last Pittsford MONR 6 Oct.
Com. Gallinule: max 500 NMWMA (VDS) 22 Sep (JMcG, LS); last 2 NMWMA (VDS) 18 Oct.
Am. Coot: max 325 NMWMA (VDS) 7 Oct (LBe, RB).
Sandhill Crane: max 59 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 2 Nov (DK); 8 T Rush MONR 15 Nov (MZ); 9 decreasing to 1 NC 17-21 Nov (B&BM, mob); 2 Ashley Rd, T Livonia ONTA 3, 23, 25 Nov (mob).
Black-bellied Plover: last SalC 26 Oct.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 26 T Avon LIVI 7 Sep, low max; last Redman Rd, T Hamlin 21 Oct, early dep.
Semipalmented Plover: last SalC 4 Nov.
Killdeer: max 101 Cy Farms area T Byron GENE 2 Sep, low max; last Dalton Rd, T Nunda, LIVI 23 Nov (JGo).
Whimbrel: BB-ES 9, 12, 21 Sep (MG, AGu, JiM, LMa, JMcG, LS).
Hudsonian Godwit: arr NMWMA (SCU) 12 Oct (AVK); last IB – S 19 Oct (SG, GF).
Ruddy Turnstone: last HB 30 Sep.
Red Knot: IB - S 23 Oct (CGi).
Stilt Sandpiper: last Newark WAYN 10 Oct.
Sanderling: max 23 BB-ES 9 Sep; last IBO 27 Nov (PM).
Dunlin: max 155 SalC 22 Oct, low max; 76 SalC 4 Nov, good count for date; last SalC 21 Nov.
Baird's Sandpiper: last 2 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds area LIVI 22 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: last SalC 20 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last IB - S 22 Nov.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr BB-ES 11 Sep (DSH, GF).
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 30 Canadice L – S ONTA 20 Oct & Jones Bridge & Perry Rds area LIVI 23 Oct, low max; last SalC 4 Nov.
Semipalmented Sandpiper: max 37 BB-ES 9 Sep, low max; last T Williamson WAYN 9 Nov.
Short-billed Dowitcher: last 2 SalC 29 Oct (KF).
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MAC 12 Sep; last MAC 15 Sep, early dep.
Am. Woodcock: last MP 3 Nov, not many late fall birder reports.
Wilson's Snipe: last SalC 21 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: last HB 19 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last Jones Bridge & Perry Rds area LIVI 22 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last SalC 3 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: last 2 BB 11 Nov, (AGu, CW, ph).

Wilson's Phalarope: last IB – S 5-11 Oct (JWi, 46+ oth obs), Reg record late.

Red Phalarope: arr BB-ES 9-12 Sep (CGo, mob), early; last Sodus Bay 25 Oct (MG, *et al.*).

Parasitic Jaeger: arr BB-ES 9 Sep; BB-ES 11, 15 Sep; 3 HB 22 Sep; 2 HB 29 Sep; HB 6 Oct; 3 HB 11, 13 Oct; West Port Bay WAYN 12 Oct; off Edgemere Dr, G 3, 10 Nov.

jaeger sp.: 3 HB 8 Sep; HB 22, 30 Sep, 1 Oct; off Edgemere Dr, G 29 Sep; PtB 20 Oct.

Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 1 imm HB 10 Nov (LK, STO).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 348 IB – S 10 Nov (LK); 330 NC 13 Oct.

Little Gull: arr 1 ad HB 13 Oct (JeB, AGu, TL, LSe); arr 1 ad NC 13 Oct (JeB, AGu, TL, LSe, BCAR, ph); 1 ad HB 14 Oct (JeB, AGu, TL, LSe, BCAR); 2 ad IB – S 21 Nov (CW); 2 ad Buck Pnd, G 21 Nov (JeB, CW); 3 ad Buck Pnd, G 21 Nov (MiB).

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 imm HB 29 Sep (PMar, DSh, SGr, TNa, AGu.).

Ring-billed Gull: max 4000 Groveland Flats LIVI 5 Nov (JK).

Herring Gull: max 1270 IB – S 21 Nov (CW).

Iceland Gull: arr HB 21 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: total 6 at 4 loc 2-30 Sep; total 4 at 3 loc 6-20 Oct; 14 rep, 12 ind 7 loc 5-23 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: arr IBO 15 Nov.

Caspian Tern: last BB-ES 16 Oct.

Black Tern: last HB 14 Sep.

Com. Tern: max 96 HB 3 Sep; last 2 BB-ES 4 Nov (JeB, CW).

Forster's Tern: last Silver L – S 19 Oct (RSt).

LOONS - PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: arr 2 HB 6 Oct; max 1977 HB 11 Nov (JeB, CW, AGu, PMar), good count.

PACIFIC LOON: HB 11 Nov (JeB, CW, AGu).

Com. Loon: 93 HB 22 Sep, good count for date; 150 HB 13 Oct, 1st date over 100; max 230 HB 20 Oct, low max.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2200 off Slater Crk, G 23 Oct (KGr); 200 Broadway & Brown Rds, T Wolcott WAYN 8 Nov (W&MR), good count for date.

Least Bittern: last Buck Pd, G 21 Nov (MiB, Sba, JeB, CW), Reg record late.

Great Egret: last Round Pd, G 17-20 Nov (BriM, Jim, RSPr), late.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (R2): 1 imm IB – S 13-18 Sep (PMab, mob).

CATTLE EGRET (R2): arr NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 2 Nov (GL, BCAR, MG, JWi); Pocock Rd, T Bergen GENE 3 Nov (JPoc, *fide* MM-C); T Williamson WAYN 13 Nov (LD, ph).

Green Heron: last BB – Burger P 18 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last Long Pnd, G 14 Oct.

Black Vulture: Cal – Mum High School LIVI 30 Sep (KC); School Rd, Victor (DD, CJ).

Osprey: last HANA 9 Nov (KC), late.

Golden Eagle: 1 ad Old Duck Inn, T Tyre WAYN 3 Oct (DO), rare in fall.

N. Goshawk: Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 24 Sep (W&MR); 1 imm 4 Nov (CW); 1 imm IBO 11 Nov (AGa).

Bald Eagle: 184 line eBird many loc Sep; 259 lines eBird many loc Oct; 94 rep, 79 ind many loc Nov; good numbers.

Red-shouldered Hawk: only 3 rep.

Broad-winged Hawk: CL Inlet WAYN 1 Oct, only rep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Beechwood SP WAYN 28 Sep (JWo), early; next T Rush MONR 20 Oct.

Snowy Owl: arr SPT 28 Oct (CCon); BB-ES 5-6 Nov; n of Batavia 29-30 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: arr Geneseo airfield 8 Nov; max 8 Sand Rd, W. Bloomfield 20 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: T Conesus LIVI 3 Sep (KC); Manitou - Owl Woods 30 Sep (RN, LC, JAd); 1 b M – BBBO 10 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total 19 ind 18 loc 2-24 Nov, good number late in season.

Am. Kestrel: ~22 ind 20+ loc Oct; 8 ind at 6 loc Nov.

Merlin: total ~41 ind 19 loc 8-30 Sep; total ~36 at 21+ loc Oct; 26 rep, 24 ind 19 loc Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: total ~25 ind 14 loc 3-30 Sep; total ~23 at 17+ loc Oct; 15 rep, 15 ind 13 loc Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: last Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 18 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last T York LIVI 22 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last NMWMA (VDS) 15 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: last NMWMA (VDS) 18 Oct (W&MR).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: total b 9 BBBO 4-23 Sep.

Willow Flycatcher: last BB-ES 14 Sep (DH).

“Traill’s Flycatcher: last HANA 4 Oct

Least Flycatcher: last 1b BBBO 3 Oct.

Empidonax sp.: NMWMA (VDA) 2 Nov (W&MR), record late; HB – YC 12 Nov (R, S, & CSp), record late, *intro*.

E. Phoebe: total b 20 30 Sep -23 Oct, high number b; last Whiting Rd Nature Preserve, W 17 Oct.

SAY’S PHOEBE: BB-ES 21-22 Sep (ET, mob, many ph), 3rd Reg record.

N. Shrike: arr BB – Burger P 14 Oct; 11 rep 9 ind 7 loc 14-30 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last Garner Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 29 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: total b 22 BBBO 19 Sep – 23 Oct; last HB – YC 12 Nov (RB, AGu, PM), late.

Philadelphia Vireo: total b 8 BBBO 4 Sep – 3 Oct; last Purcell Rd, T Canadice ONTA 20 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last NMWMA (VDS) **24 Oct** (DK), Reg record late.

Red-eyed Vireo: total b 48 BBBO 1 Sep - 4 Oct; last HB 6 Oct.

Am. Crow: max 1000 Highland P, Rochester 25 Nov, low max.

Purple Martin: last 1-4 MAC 15 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 5000 Nations Rd area 24 Sep; last 2 Silver L WYOM 28 Oct.

Rough-winged Swallow: 6 Oatka Creek P 7 Nov (JAd), late; 15 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 10 Nov & last 7 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 10 Nov (RSt), late.

Bank Swallow: last NMWMA (MRd) 30 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last Crusoe L, T Savannah WAYN 13 Sep, early dep.

CAVE SWALLOW: SPT 9 Nov (MG, ph), only report.

Barn Swallow: max 300 NMWMA (Marten Tract) 21 Sep; last IB – S 1 Oct.

Black-capped Chickadee: total b 20 BBBO 1 Sep – 26 Oct, low, especially for a normally high year.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 18 WP 3 Sep, only count > 10, low max.

Brown Creeper: total b 40 BBBO 18 Sep – 30 Oct.

House Wren: last 2 BB – Burger P & M – Owl Woods 14 Oct.

Winter Wren: arr G 17 Sep; total b 14 BBBO 22 Sep - 16 Oct, low; last IB – S 24 Nov.

Marsh Wren: last Northrup Creek, G 18 Nov (TL), late.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Round Pnd, G 20 Oct BriM).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 55 BB 30 Sep (LBe, RB); max b 25 BBB0 5 Oct, low max; total b 157 BBB0 27 Sep – 30 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr T Livonia LIVI 7 Sep; max 57 HB 6 Oct; max b 49 BBB0 5 Oct, low max; total b 315 BBB0 22 Sep-30 Oct; last BB-ES 18 Nov (TL), late.

Veery: total b 11 BBB0 1-18 Sep; last Highland P, Rochester 6 Oct.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Manitou – Owl Woods 1 Sep; max 24 H 15 Sep; max b 6 BBB0 20 & 30 Sep; total b 41 BBB0 16 Sep - 8 Oct, low; last Oatka Creek P 20 Oct.

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: max b 10 M 17 Sep; total b 17 BBB0 17 Sep-last 6 Oct, low.

Swainson's Thrush: max 120 H 15 Sep (AGu), night calls; max b 17 BBB0 3 Oct; total b 130 BBB0 1 Sep-last 14 Oct; last 3 DEP & 1 G 20 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 20 BBB0 21 Oct, low max; max b 25 BBB0 14 Oct; total b 203 BBB0 27 Sep-30 Oct; 5 WO 11 Nov, good number for date.

Wood Thrush: NMWMA (VDS) 2 Nov (W&MR), late.

Am. Robin: max 488 T Gates MONR 24 Nov (BriM).

Gray Catbird: max 31 WP 13 Sep (RSp); 30 MP 16 Sep (TL); total b 94 BBB0 1 Sep - 19 Oct; last T Gates MONR 23 Nov (NK).

Brown Thrasher: last G 3 Nov.

Bohemian Waxwing: arr Whiting Rd Nature Preserve, W 11 Nov (CGi, ET, ph); WP 12-13 Nov (MG, 4 oth obs); 2 HB 19 Nov (MG, 8 oth obs, ph).

Cedar Waxwing: max 320 DEP 23 Nov.

Am. Pipit: arr 1-2 BB-ES 15 Sep; max 70 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds LIVI 23 & 25 Oct (JK); last 2 Nations Rd, Avon 20 Nov (NK).

Evening Grosbeak: arr DEP 1 26 Oct; max 11 H 6 Nov (AGu), good count for recent years; 28 rep, 67 ind 19 loc 1-27 Nov; best showing in many years.

Pine Grosbeak: 1 f DEP 24-30 Nov (GL, mob, ph).

Purple Finch: total b 24 BBB0 5-24 Oct, high number banded.

Com. Redpoll: arr 1b BBB0 30 Oct; max 140 H 30 Nov (AGu).

Red Crossbill: WP 29 Sep (R&SSp), early or summer wanderer; arr DEP 4 Nov; HB – WE 10 Nov; only reps.

White-winged Crossbill: arr DEP 23 Nov; 2 DEP 25 Nov; only reps.

Pine Siskin: arr Rochester 5 Sep; max 25 Bear Creek, Wayne Co. 24 Nov; max 25 T Sodus Wayne Co. 29 Nov; low counts.

Am. Goldfinch: max b 15 BBB0 6 Oct; total b 64 4 Sep – 30 Oct; max 470 HB 4 Nov (AGu).

Lapland Longspur: arr BB-ES & IBO 22 Sep.

Snow Bunting: arr 2-10 at 4 loc 21 Oct; max 120 H 13 Nov (AGu).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: last CL Inlet WMA 19 Nov (KC), late.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Rochester & T Savannah WAYN 19 Oct.

Chipping Sparrow: last HB 4 Nov (KH).

Field Sparrow: max 18 Genesee Valley Greenway 19, 20 Oct (BHo, JK); last T Livonia LIVI 18 Nov (TBo).

Savannah Sparrow: last Bennet Rd, T Parma MONR 4 Nov.

NELSON'S SPARROW (R2): Burger P, G 14-15 Oct (MG, PMar, 11+ oth obs).

Fox Sparrow: arr 3 Burger P, G 8 Oct; many thru Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Ellison P, T Penfield 9 Sep; total b 4 BBB0 9 Sep-5 Oct, low; last Eagle Cliff Farm WAYN 26 Oct (MG), late.

White-throated Sparrow: max 85 Genesee Valley Greenway 19, 20 Oct (BHo, JK); max b 57 BBB0 5 Oct; total b 455 BBB0 4 Sep-30 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 4 HANA 28 Sep; max 30 Webster Arboretum 25 Oct (RR).

Dark-eyed Junco: max 80 DEP 29 Oct (SGr); max b 29 BBB0 5 Oct; total b 61 BBB0 18 Sep – 30 Oct.

Bobolink: last 3 H 15 Sep.

E. Meadowlark: last 2 MAC 20 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: last T Savannah WAYN 15 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 1200 MP 3 Nov.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 500 Roseburgh Rd, T Groveland LIVI 23 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr T Conesus LIVI 27 Sep; max 70 Rochester 17 Oct, low max; 44 rep, 317+ ind 28 loc Oct; 15 rep, 34 ind 11 loc 1-19 Nov (13 obs); late max 16 Burger P, G 12 Nov; last 4 T Victor ONTA 19 Nov (BaB).

Com. Grackle: max 2500 T Canadice ONTA 6 Oct (BHo).

blackbird sp.: max 3800 NMWMA (VDS) 28 Oct (JeB, GVH).

Ovenbird: total b 11 BBBO 1-27 Sep; last Churchville 5 Oct.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 1b BBBO 14 Sep, rarely reported near lakeshore.

N. Waterthrush: last 1b BBBO 20 Sep.

Blue-winged Warbler: last 2 Dansville LIVI 18 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last Purcell Rd, T Canadice ONTA 4 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: last Dalton Rd, T Nunda LIVI & Sherburne P, T Walworth WAYN 8 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr HBWP 18 Sep; total 5 ind 5 loc 18-30 Sep; total 6 b BBBO 1-18 Oct; total 16 at 12 th loc 3-28 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: total b 10 9 Sep-6 Oct; last Webster Arboretum 23 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: last HANA 3 Oct (DH, RR).

Mourning Warbler: last NMWMA (VDS) 22 Sep.

Com. Yellowthroat: total b 59 BBBO 1 Sep-5 Oct; last BB 24 Oct.

Hooded Warbler: last Chimney Bluffs WAYN 1 Oct.

Am. Redstart: total b 27 BBBO 1-30 Sep; last DEP 6 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last 1b BBBO 24 Oct, late.

N. Parula: last NMWMA (VDS) 20 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: max b 31 BBBO 9 Sep; total b 192 BBBO 1 Sep-3 Oct; max obs 16 M - Owl Woods 8 Sep; last M - Owl Woods & CL Inlet WMA LIVI 14 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: total b 16 BBBO 2 Sep – 2 Oct; last Hemlock L - S 6 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last Pittsford Trails MONR 7 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: none b after 29 Aug; last Kings Bend P, T Pittsford MONR 3 Oct.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last IB – S 3 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: max b 51 BBBO 28 Sep; 45b BBBO 21 Sep; 43b BBBO 4 Oct; total b 446 BBBO 2 Sep-last 21 Oct, high number banded.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 11 G 2 Sep (KG); total b 33 BBBO 3 Sep-6 Oct; last HB 14 Oct.

Palm Warbler: arr G 1 Sep; max 10 HANA 3 Oct (KG); last IB – S 23 (CGi). Oct.

Pine Warbler: max 18 HB 7 Sep (AGu); last HB 23 Nov (CGo), late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 35 IB – S 6 Oct (NK); G (Canal P) H 14 Oct; total b 15 BBBO 3 Sep-10 Oct; last DEP 25 Nov (NK), late.

Black-throated Green Warbler: total b 15 BBBO 8-25 Sep; last 2 BB 9 Oct.

Canada Warbler: last TCEA 27 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: total b 24 BBBO 1 Sep-last 4 Oct; last T Wolcott WAYN 6 Oct.

Scarlet Tanager: last Purcell Rd, T Canadice ONTA 5 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Fowlerville LIVI 28 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last South Conesus LIVI 3 Oct.

DICKCISSEL (R2): H 15 Sep (AGu), flyover calling.

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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The 2018 fall season began warmer than normal but became colder than normal. The entire season was wetter than normal. The average high temperature in September was 73.5°F, 2.4° above normal. The average low was 54.7°, 5.7° above normal. Total precipitation was 5.36", 1.67" more than normal. The average high temperature in October was 56°, 3° below normal, but the average low was 40.8°, 1.5° above normal. October's total precipitation was 5.35", 1.93" more than normal. A trace amount of snow fell on one occasion, so total

snowfall was 0.4" below normal. November's average high temperature was 40.7°, 7.5° below normal. The average low was 27.6°, 4.1° below normal. Total precipitation was 4.13", 0.97" more than normal. Total snowfall was 18.8", 14.3" more than normal. Snow depth reached a peak on 16 November when 9" of new snow fell.

The timing of waterfowl migration was normal. Observers recorded one slightly late date for only one species—Brant. On the other hand, high numbers were reported for several species: Snow Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, and Bufflehead. The most unusual waterfowl were hybrids. The Barnacle X Cackling Goose hybrid and its apparent traveling companion, a Snow X Canada Goose hybrid, made another brief appearance at Seneca Lake State Park for the third migration season in a row. Another Snow X Canada Goose hybrid was at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge for nearly a month. Jay McGowan picked out a Ring-necked Duck X scaup (sp.) hybrid at Montezuma in late October. Other notable waterfowl were Eurasian Wigeons at Montezuma NWR through October and into November and a Tufted Duck also at Montezuma NWR for a week in late October and early November.

Jay McGowan and Livia Santana recorded a high count of Rock Pigeons in Groton. Jeremy Smith recorded a season high count of Chimney Swifts in Ithaca. At Montezuma NWR, Dave Kennedy counted 134 Sandhill Cranes, the most ever in the Region.

Shorebird migration proceeded at a normal pace, although a Semipalmated Plover lingered until 3 November, a White-rumped Sandpiper lingered until 20 November, and a Greater Yellowlegs lingered until 25 November. Numbers were relatively low. Nevertheless, the diversity was good, with observers reporting 26 species. The most exciting finds were a Red Knot that continued through 4 September at Myers Point, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper that continued at Montezuma NWR through 15 September, and a Red Phalarope that made an appearance at Montezuma NWR on 9 October. The best Larids were a Laughing Gull at a McDonald's in Horseheads and an early arriving Iceland Gull at Cayuga Lake State Park in October.

Heron highlights included three American Bitterns at Montezuma NWR, several Cattle Egret sightings, and a Little Blue Heron in Queen Catharine Marsh in early September. Black Vultures continued to make appearances in the Region. Jeremy Collison patiently counted 1,030 migrating Turkey Vultures migrating past the Cornell University campus on 5 October. The main hawk highlight was 657 Broad-winged Hawks migrating over the Town of Danby on 12 September.

Another report of Barn Owl came from the same location in the Town of Thurston in Steuben County as other reports of the species earlier in the year. The count of 23 Northern Saw-whet Owls banded at the banding station in the Town of Caroline on 30 October was a new fall high count for the Region.

Season high counts of six Belted Kingfishers came from locations in Schuyler and Yates Counties. McGowan Woods in Tompkins County held the high count of 14 Red-bellied Woodpeckers. The only report of Red-headed Woodpecker was from the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course in Tompkins County. Three Merlin was a high count for the fall season, and observers reported that number at Ithaca City Cemetery, Cornell University, and Montezuma NWR.

Finding two Olive-sided Flycatchers at the same location in the fall is unusual in this Region. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana reported that many from two locations in the Finger Lakes National Forest on 8 September and a group of observers found that many in the Town of Jerusalem on 15 September. Diane Morton had a high count of 10 Eastern Wood-Pewees at Sapsucker Woods in early September. Ken Rosenberg photographed a late Eastern Wood-Pewee at Ladoga Park on 21 October. Gerald Fix and Cynthia King observed a very late Great Crested Flycatcher at close range in Sapsucker Woods on 6 October. Jay McGowan found a seasonal high of four Eastern Kingbirds on 2 September at McDaniel Preserve.

Three Yellow-throated Vireos at Hi Tor Wildlife Management Area in mid-September was a seasonal high count. Appropriately, Jay McGowan found a new high count of 1,000 Blue Jays migrating past Myers Point, also in mid-September. Gates Dupont's 8,000 American Crows at a site in the Town of Aurelius was also a seasonal high count. Swallow numbers for all species were way down from past years. Observers also reported high counts of Tufted Titmice at a location in Tompkins County and of Red-breasted Nuthatches at Sampson State Park.

A Marsh Wren at Montezuma NWR on 17 November was quite late. Maximum counts of thrushes came largely from nocturnal counts, but none of the counts were particularly high. Mark Chao found the high count of 14 Northern Mockingbirds at the Cornell Community Garden Plots—a good number for a species that this author thinks may be dwindling in the Region.

The fall arrival of “winter” finches is always of interest. The first Evening Grosbeak appeared in early October, and the maximum count of 68 in the Town of Summerhill was a great number for recent years. Some Common Redpolls were reported in the Region, and 70 Pine Siskins was a seasonal high count. A single Red Crossbill report came from Bluegrass Lane Natural Area.

Observers recorded high counts for three species of sparrow: Field, Nelson’s, and Swamp. Liz Slote found four Baltimore Orioles at a Town of Caroline location in early September for a high count of that species. Observers also recorded high counts for Nashville Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula (nocturnal count), Magnolia Warbler, and Blackpoll Warbler (nocturnal count). Tim Lenz found a late Tennessee Warbler on 20 October. Paul Rodewald described a late Mourning Warbler that he found on 14 October. Donna Carter photographed a late Northern Parula on 2 November. Also on that day, Logan Kahle and Tim Lenz found a late Blackpoll Warbler. The most unusual passerine was the Black-headed X Rose-breasted Grosbeak that

continued to visit a feeder in the Town of Rathbone through 18 September. Since first being photographed by Noel Sylvester in August, the underparts of this male bird became more orange and the breast became rosier.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CCGP** – Cornell Community Garden Plots, TOMP; **CU** – Cornell University; **FLNF** – Finger Lakes National Forest; **FrPt** – Frontenac Pt, SENE; **Gen** – Geneva; **HHSF** – Hammond Hill State Forest; **HT** – Hi Tor; **Ith** – Ithaca; **KeuL** – Keuka L; **LPBP** – Lindsay-

**PHOTO GALLERY
FALL 2018**



Northern Wheatear, Heckscher SP, *Suffolk*, 28 Oct 2018, © Lisa Nasta.



Eastern Bluebird, Corinth, *Saratoga*, 24 Nov 2018, © Scott Stoner.



Gray Kingbird, Jones Beach West End, *Nassau*, 10 Nov 2018, © Donna Schulman.



Red Phalarope, Braddock Bay, East Spit, *Monroe*, 9 Sep 2018, © Christopher Goetz.



Purple Gallinule, Prospect Park, *Kings*, 22 Oct 2018, © Paige Linden-Brams.



Golden Eagles, Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch, *Delaware*, 25 Oct 2018, © Curt Morgan.
See note p. 27.

Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP, **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **PW** – Palmer Woods, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **Smp** – Sampson; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TERw** – T Erwin, STEU; **TIth** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TLod** – T Lodi, SENE.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr 2 TITH 25 Sep; max 20,000 T Varick SENE 21 Nov (TH), high.

Brant: arr MyPt 12 Oct; max 220 MyPt 21 Oct; last SW 29 Nov (FPO), late.

Cackling Goose: arr MNWR 28 Sep; max 21 SenL SP 19 Nov.

BARNACLE X CACKLING GOOSE (R3): SenL SP 19 Nov (TL, ph).

SNOW X CANADA GOOSE (R3): MNWR 6 Oct-2 Nov (TL, ph, JMcG, LSa); SenL SP 19 Nov (TL, ph).

Trumpeter Swan: max 20 MNWR 5-8 Nov (TL), high.

Tundra Swan: arr 2 MNWR 23 Oct; max 1950 MNWR 25 Nov (JMcG, LSa), high.

Wood Duck: max 600 MNWR 16 Sep (TL), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 30 MNWR 5 Sep; 30 MNWR 22 Sep; last MNWR 7 Nov.

N. Shoveler: max 364 MNWR 4 Nov (CGou), high; last 2 MNWR 17 Nov.

EURASIAN WIGEON (R3): 1-2 MNWR 30 Sep-10 Nov (mob).

Canvasback: arr 2 MNWR 13 Oct; max 640 MNWR 2 Nov.

Redhead: max 12,000 StP 25 Nov (JCo), high.

Tufted Duck : MNWR 28 Oct-3 Nov (mob, ph).

Greater Scaup: arr Lakefront P ONTA 22 Sep; max 200 MNWR 28 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: arr MNWR 22 Sep; max 3000 MNWR 30 Oct.

RING-NECKED DUCK X SCAUP sp. (R3): MNWR 28 Oct (JMcG!).

Surf Scoter: arr 2 MyPt 1 Oct; max 8 MyPt 15 Oct; last 5 E Shore P TOMP 22 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: arr 2 KeuL SP 14 Oct; max 8 Long Pt SP 28 Oct; 8 SenL, Gen 3 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr SenL SP 20 Oct; max 12 SenL, Gen 3 Nov; last MyPt 7 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr Gen Country Club ONTA 21 Oct; max 4 SenL SP 19 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr 12 SenL SP 18 Oct; StP 18 Oct; max 200 Cayuga L, Ith 10 Nov (AD), high.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 4 SenL SP 21 Oct; max 60 Lake Rd Bluff CAYU 25 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr HT WMA YATE 22 Sep; max 12 Lake Rd Bluff CAYU 25 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr MNWR 24 Sep; max 300 MNWR 23-28 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr StP 13 Oct; max 8 Lakefront P ONTA 24 Oct.

Red-necked Grebe: arr Taughannock Falls SP 18 Sep; max 3 Ith Yacht Club TOMP 4 Nov.

Rock Pigeon: max 300 T Groton TOMP 24 Nov (JMcG, LSa), high.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last TDry 22 Oct.

Black-billed Cuckoo: last MNWR 14 Sep.

Com. Nighthawk: max 9 Elmira Dam CHEM 1 Sep; last Smp SP 30 Sep; TDry 30 Sep.

Chimney Swift: max 100 Ith 13 Sep (JSm), high; last 2 MNWR 3 Oct.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 10 FLNF SENE 7 Sep; last CCGP 29 Sep.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: max 3 Hillview Rd Wetland TOMP 5 Sep; last MNWR 16 Oct.

Sora: max 6 MNWR 9 Sep; last Ridge Rd Rail Trail TOMP 30 Sep.

Com. Gallinule: max 100 MNWR 4 Sep; last 2 MNWR 14 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: max 134 Savannah Mucklands SENE 19 Nov (DK), high.

Black-bellied Plover: max 8 MNWR 5 Oct; last 3 MNWR 21 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 3 MNWR 9 Sep-7 Oct; last MNWR 21 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: max 30 MNWR 8 Sep; last MNWR 3 Nov (TL), late.

Killdeer: max 68 MyPt 17 Sep; last T Summerhill CAYU 18 Nov.

Hudsonian Godwit: arr MNWR 4 Oct; last MNWR 22 Oct.

RED KNOT (R3): MyPt thru 4 Sep (mob, ph).

Stilt Sandpiper: max 5 MNWR 1-18 Sep; last 2 MNWR 13 Oct.

Sanderling: max 4 MNWR 19 Sep; last MNWR 20 Oct.

Dunlin: max 265 MNWR 20 Oct; last MyPt 13 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: max 6 MNWR 1 Sep; last MNWR 22 Sep.

Least Sandpiper: max 55 MNWR 15 Sep; last 7 Riser Rd Swamp ONTA 23 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 16 MNWR 19 Sep; last MyPt 20 Nov (JMcG), late.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (R3): MNWR thru 15 Sep, (mob, ph).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 85 MNWR 7 Oct; last T Tyre SENE 6 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 40 2 Sep; last 2 MNWR 29 Oct; MyPt 29 Oct.

WESTERN SANDPIPER (R3): MNWR 14 Sep (DK!).

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 12 MNWR 19 Sep; last MNWR 4 Oct.

Long-billed Dowitcher: max 20 MNWR 14 Oct; last MNWR 27 Oct.

Am. Woodcock: max 3 MNWR 17 Oct; last T Ovid SENE 3 Nov.

Wilson's Snipe: max 9 MNWR 20 Sep; last TDry 16 Nov.

Wilson's Phalarope: max 2 MNWR 5-6 Sep (Kyle Gage, TL, PMa), high; last MNWR 18 Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 6 MNWR (RBo), high; last MyPt 26 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 MNWR 6 Sep; last 2 Newman Golf Course TOMP 6 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 35 MNWR 22 Sep; 3 T Tyre SENE 6 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 35 MNWR 5 Oct; last MNWR 25 Nov (JMcG, LSa), late.

RED PHALAROPE (R3): MNWR 9 Oct (MGu!).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 60 Gen Country Club ONTA 21 Oct (TL), high; last FrPt 20 Nov.

LAUGHING GULL (R3): Horseheads 21 Sep (EHo!).

Iceland Gull: arr Cayuga L SP 23 Oct (KR!), early.

Caspian Tern: max 18 StP 3 Sep; last 2 StP 6 Oct.

Black Tern: last SenL SP 6 Sep.

Com. Tern: max 8 Harris P CAYU 19 Sep; last 2 MNWR 20 Oct.

Forster's Tern: 2 MyPt 18 Sep.

LOONS - PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: arr FrPt 5 Nov.

Am. Bittern: max 3 MNWR 14 Sep (mob), high; last MNWR 13 Oct.

Least Bittern: last MNWR 15 Sep.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (R3): Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 2-6 Sep (mob, ph).

Cattle Egret: arr MNWR 12 Oct; max 6 TErw 31 Oct (JFa, NS, ph), high; last Goose Haven SENE 15 Nov.

Green Heron: max 8 CU 6 Sep, nocturnal migrants; last SW 19 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 6 MNWR 12 Oct; last 2 MNWR 8 Nov.

Black Vulture: max 2 Stevenson Rd Compost Piles TOMP 6 Sep; 2 Buttermilk Falls SP 5 Oct; last CU 16 Oct, early.

Turkey Vulture: max 1030 CU 5 Oct (JCo), high.

Osprey: max 6 MNWR 1-6 Sep; last Minier's Pd CHEM 27 Oct.

Golden Eagle: arr Buttermilk Falls SP 5 Oct; max 2 TDry 20 Oct; last Elmira 10 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: last SW 4 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 657 TDan 12 Sep; last 6 CU 14 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr T Hopewell ONTA 15 Oct; max 2 MNWR 19 Oct.

BARN OWL (R3): T Thurston STEU 22 Sep (DB!).

Snowy Owl: T Seneca 1 Nov.

Barred Owl: max 3 TDry 22 Sep; 3 T Catlin CHEM 23 Oct.

Short-eared Owl: TDry 28 Oct; FLNF SENE 28 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: max 23 TCar 30 Oct (PMcN), banded, high.

Belted Kingfisher: max 6 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 3 Sep (MT); 6 HT WMA YATE 22 Sep (Jon Gross), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Robert Trent Jones Golf Course TOMP 22 Oct.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 14 McGowan Woods TOMP 30 Sep (Wyatt Westerkamp), high.

Am. Kestrel: max 15 MNWR 14 Sep; 15 Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve TOMP 7 Oct.

Merlin: max 3 Ith City Cemetery 12 Sep (LCh); 3 CU 5 Oct (JCo); 3 MNWR 7 Oct (JBr, RK), high.

FLYCATCHERS - SNOW BUNTINGS

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 2 Ith City Cemetery TOMP 9 Sep (LCh, EL), high; last SW 6 Oct (GF, CK), late.

E. Kingbird: max 4 McDaniel Preserve TOMP 2 Sep (JMcG), high; last StP 18 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 2 FLNF SCHU 8 Sep (JMcG, LSa); 2 FLNF SENE 8 Sep (JMcG, LSa); last 2 T Jerusalem YATE 15 Sep (mob), high; MNWR 15 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 10 SW 9 Sep (DM), high; last Ladoga P TOMP 21 Oct (KR!, ph, TS!), late.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 2 MNWR 15 Sep; last TDan 22 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last PW 29 Sep.

E. Phoebe: max 10 BLNA 7 Sep; last T Sempronius CAYU 18 Nov; MyPt 18 Nov.

N. Shrike: arr FLNF SENE 8 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 3 HT WMA YATE 15 Sep (mob), high; last Big Flats Trail CHEM 29 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 8 PW 5 Oct; last Ontario Pathways ONTA 26 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 4 Edward L Cliff Preserve TOMP 9 & 20 Sep; 4 MNWR 15 Sep; 4 SenL SP 17 Sep; last CU 11 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: max 11 SenL SP 17 Sep; last Tlth 6 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 15 KeuL SP 2 Nov; 15 SW 13 Sep; last TDry 13 Oct.

Blue Jay: max 1000 MyPt 18 Sep (JMcG), high.

Am. Crow: max 8000 T Aurelius CAYU 26 Oct (GDu), high.

Purple Martin: max 100 MNWR 12 Sep; last MNWR 14 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 4000 MNWR 11 Oct; last 2 MNWR 2 Nov.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 150 MNWR 6 Sep; last SenL SP 29 Oct.

Bank Swallow: max 1000 MNWR 2 Sep; last MNWR 6 Oct.

Cliff Swallow: max & last 10 MyPt 10 Sep.

Barn Swallow: max 30 MyPt 11 Sep; last MNWR 11 Oct.

Tufted Titmouse: max 15 Monkey Run TOMP 13 Sep (EHu, GDu, CS), high.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 26 Smp SP SENE 15 Sep (JMcG, LSa), high.

House Wren: max 5 PW 20 Sep; last FLNF SENE 19 Oct.

Marsh Wren: max 10 MNWR 7 Sep; last MNWR 17 Nov (CW), late.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 4 MNWR 1 Sep; last SW 26 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 26 BLNA 15 Nov; last TDry 28 Nov; Monkey Run TOMP 28 Nov.

Veery: max 15 NE Ith 7 Sep, nocturnal; last 4 T Catlin CHEM 1 Oct; 2 CU 1 Oct, nocturnal.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 300 CU 1 Oct, nocturnal; last CU 11 Oct, nocturnal; Tlth 11 Oct; FLNF SENE 11 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: max 600 CU 1 Oct, nocturnal; last HHSF 14 Oct; Tlth 14 Oct; T Enfield 14 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 5 TLod 13 Oct; last T Dix SCHU 25 Nov.

Wood Thrush: max 18 NE Ith 29 Sep, nocturnal; last TDry 7 Oct.

Gray Catbird: max 30 Smp SP 15 Sep; last CU 27 Nov.

Brown Thrasher: max 9 LPBP 16 Sep; last HHSF 6 Oct.

N. Mockingbird: max 14 CCGP 11 Sep (MaCh), high.

Am. Pipit: arr 2 MNWR 15 Sep; max 30 T Veteran CHEM 12 Oct; 30 BLNA 21 Oct; 30 Fayette SENE 15 Nov; last T Big Flats CHEM 20 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: arr TCar 7 Oct; max 68 T Summerhill CAYU 18 Nov.

Purple Finch: max 48 SW 12 Oct.

Com. Redpoll: arr TDry 27 Oct; max 18 TDry 17 Nov.

Red Crossbill: BLNA 17 Nov (KR!).

Pine Siskin: arr SW 12 Sep; max 70 Ith (JDi, AD), high.

Lapland Longspur: arr TDry 5 Oct; MNWR 5 Nov; FLNF SENE 8 Nov; T Genoa CAYU 18 Nov.

Snow Bunting: arr MNWR 21 Oct; SenL SP 21 Oct; max 70 T Aurelius CAYU 17 Nov.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: max 15 Bare Hill Unique Area YATE 15 Sep; last TERw 16 Nov.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr T Romulus SENE 12 Oct; max 55 BLNA 16 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 80 Robert Trent Jones Golf Course TOMP 5 Sep.

Field Sparrow: max 32 FLNF SCHU 8 Sep (JMcG, LSa), high; last TERw 30 Nov.

Vesper Sparrow: max 3 BLNA 25 Oct; last BLNA 3 Nov.

Savannah Sparrow: max 62 FLNF SENE 23 Sep; last T Cayuta SCHU 20 Nov.

Nelson's Sparrow: arr MNWR 27 Sep; max 4 TDry 5-8 Oct (mob, JMcG, ph), high; last TDry 25 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: arr Dryden L P TOMP 9 Oct; max 8 Ridgeway Rd Rail Trail TOMP 4 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr BLNA 7 Sep; max 4 TDry 28 Sep; 4 TDry 13 Oct; last Personius Woods CHEM 23 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 55 Dryden L P TOMP 9 Oct (CW), high.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr MNWR 28 Sep; max 10 TDry 6 Oct; 10 MNWR 23 Oct.

Bobolink: max 1000 MNWR 1 Sep; last CCGP 8 Oct.

E. Meadowlark: max 18 TLod 8 Sep; last T Veteran CHEM 20 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: max 4 TCar 3 Sep (LSI), high.

Rusty Blackbird: arr TCar 27 Sep; max 62 T Covert SENE 31 Oct; last SW 20 Nov.

Ovenbird: max 10 CU 18 Sep, nocturnal; last T Groton TOMP 8 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: max 2 SW 6 Sep; last SW 5 Oct.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 2 TIth 3 Sep; last SW 22 Sep.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Danby State Forest TOMP 5 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 3 BLNA 7 Sep; 3 SW 11 Sep; last CU 13 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: max 8 Tunison Rd Pd SENE 5 Oct; last Whitlock Preserve SENE 20 Oct (TL!), late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr MNWR 13 Sep; max 2 SenL SP 24 Oct; last FLNF SENE 28 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: max 12 Arnot Forest TOMP 15 Sep (BW), high; last CU 26 Oct; BLNA 26 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: arr T Montezuma CAYU 12 Sep; Durland Preserve TOMP 23 Sep; last Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 28 Sep; Willard WMA SENE 28 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: last Robert Treman SP 14 Oct (PR!), late.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 40 Arnot Forest TOPM 15 Sep, last MNWR 12 Nov.

Hooded Warbler: max 4 KeuL SP 2-15 Sep; last CU 1 Oct.

Am. Redstart: max 12 CU 18 Sep, nocturnal; last BLNA 11 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: max 16 Roy H Park Preserve TOMP 3 Sep (SBa, JMcG), high; last Hog Hole TOMP 19 Oct; TDry 19 Oct.

N. Parula: max 14 CU 18 Sep (ID, LSe, BVD), nocturnal, high; last 2 SenL SP 2 Nov (DC, ph), late.

Magnolia Warbler: max 38 Smp SP 15 Sep (JMcG, LSa), high; last Ith Children’s Garden TOMP 14 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 9 LPBP 16 Sep; last 2 StP 5 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 6 SW 7 Sep; last LPBP 6 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: last BLNA 13 Oct.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 7 SW 7 Sep; last 2 CU TOMP 1 Oct, nocturnal; TDry 1 Oct, nocturnal.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr TIth 2 Sep; max 18 CU 1 Oct (JMcG, LSa), nocturnal, high; last FrPt 2 Nov (LK, TL!), late.

Black-throated Warbler: max 20 CU 1 Oct, nocturnal; last 3 CU 11 Oct; BLNA 11 Oct; SW 11 Oct.

Palm Warbler: arr MNWR 7 Sep; BLNA 7 Sep; max 15 Lansing Center Trail TOMP 28 Sep; last FLNF SENE 2 Nov.

Pine Warbler: max 5 HHSF 8 Sep; last SenL SP 18 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 50 BLNA 10 Oct; 50 Ridgeway Rd Rail Trail TOMP 14 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: max 3 LPBP 16 Sep; last LPBP 29 Sep.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 12 Edwards L Cliff Preserve TOMP 9 Sep; last CU 13 Oct; T Sempronius CAYU 13 Oct; TLod 13 Oct.

Canada Warbler: max 3 CU 15 Sep; last CU 23 Sep.

Wilson’s Warbler: max 3 Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 17 Sep; 3 SW 25 Sep; last MNWR 20 Oct; Smp SP 20 Oct.

Scarlet Tanager: max 9 CU 1 Oct, nocturnal; last TDry 8 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 55 TDan 19 Sep, nocturnal; last 3 CU 11 Oct, nocturnal.

BLACK-HEADED X ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (R3): T Rathbone STEU thru 18 Sep (JFa, NS, ph).

Indigo Bunting: max 4 TDry 8 Sep; last TDry 13 Oct.

Dickcissel: NE Ith 29 Sep; TDry 1 Oct; last CU 11 Oct, nocturnal.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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September 2018 was warmer and wetter than normal. In fact, September was the seventh warmest since 1950 and the third wettest. October was about average regarding temperature and was a little wetter than average. November was about 5.7° cooler than average and was the second wettest and third snowiest November.

The true puzzle of this year's fall migration was in the large increase in Golden Eagles counted at the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch (FMHW) especially in the second half of October. Andy Mason reported that 250 were counted from the 16th to the 31st of October. On 25 October 128 Goldens were counted, setting a single day record for eastern North America. The usual peak of migration is two weeks later. The cause of this movement is unknown. Andy reports that the summer and fall weather in Quebec, the home of most of the Goldens, was very dry, so perhaps prey was scarce. In any event the total count of Golden Eagles was 323, which was only surpassed by Allegheny Front Hawk Watch in Pennsylvania which had 386 in 2015. [See article p. 27.]

Other species showing increased numbers above the long-term average were: Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon. Red-tailed Hawk numbers did increase from the last season's low numbers. Also fifteen Black Vulture were counted this fall vs. six last season and just two in all the years previous to that. In total, 5,172 raptors were counted, which is slightly above average for the FMHW. Thanks to Andy Mason for summarizing all the above information regarding the hawk watch.

In Tioga County Adam Troyer was also counting migratory birds which flew over his farm. On 13 September he counted 774 Broad-winged Hawks and 12 Ospreys. To quote Adam: "What a day—I saw the first Broadwing around noon. After that they started coming in kettles with the largest having 68 birds." He also saw 65 Common Loons on 11 November and 30 Brant on 14 October.

A Greater White-fronted Goose was spotted at Dorchester Park in Broome County by Jon Weeks on 3 October. Many birders were able to see and photograph this bird, as it remained at the park for about two weeks. It was in the company of a great many Canada Geese. This is the second fall in a row that one was found at Dorchester Park. Another discovery at Dorchester Park was of a Sabine's Gull, again by Jon Weeks on 25 September, which he photographed. This is a first eBird record for Broome County, though there are some records of this species seen on Cayuga Lake, which has a similar latitude.

In Chenango County in the Town of Plymouth three adult Sandhill Cranes were photographed in hay fields in September. In November a flock of eleven

Sandhills was spotted migrating over Binghamton University. Two Cattle Egrets were seen and photographed in the Region in late October and early November.

Regarding shorebirds, many observed a White-rumped Sandpiper in mid-September in Dorchester Park. Another White-rumped was also spotted in a farm pond near Deposit in October. American Golden-Plovers were found in a few different locations in Chenango County, also in mid-September. A Baird's Sandpiper was well photographed in Bainbridge on 12 September. In another uncommon sighting for the Region, a Ruddy Turnstone was seen and photographed on 14 September at Glimmerglass State Park.

There were many reports of Evening Grosbeaks in late October and through November, mostly at feeders throughout the Region. Pine Siskins were also widely reported. There were just a few scattered reports of Red Crossbills and Common Redpolls. So far this does appear to be an irruption year for Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins.

A Yellow-Breasted Chat was discovered on 22 September at the Unadilla boat launch in Delaware County. A flock of a dozen Rusty Blackbirds was reported from the Michigan Hollow Lake in Tioga County on 30 October, which was a maximum count for this declining species.

Warbler diversity was down a bit this season, with 27 species recorded. Last year the number of species seen was 29, but for the three preceding years, the total number of species was 27.

In summary, 216 species vs. 214 last year were reported, with some interesting rarities for the Region. I also want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander, who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqPk – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BoPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; **CanL** – Canadarago L, OTSE; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **ChenL** – Chenango L, CHEN; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt Hawkwatch, DELA; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **PepR** – Pepacton Res, OTSE; **SkaL** – Skaneateles L, CORT; **SusR** – Susquehanna R, BROO; **TomakRd** – Tomak Rd, TIOG; **UL** – Upper Lisle, BROO.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 150 Johnson City BROO 18 Nov; 150 Binghamton Airport BROO 19 Nov; 150 MHL 20 Nov.
Greater White-fronted Goose (R4): DorP 3-25 Oct (JW, ph, mob).
Brant: max 111 FMHW 21 Oct; 30 TomakRd 14 Nov (AT).
Tundra Swan: max 2 MHL 13 Nov (ph).
Surf Scoter: max 2 gravel pits Whitney Point BROO 20 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: arr Bloody Pd CORT 5 Nov; last gravel pits Cortland CORT 30 Nov.
Black Scoter: Chenango L CHEN Nov 5-15.
Long-tailed Duck: max 18 PepR 4 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: max 24 SkaL 20 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 24 DorP 16 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: max 18 Plymouth Res CHEN 28 Oct.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 DorP 11 Nov.
Horned Grebe: max 8 DorP 1 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: max 2 PepR 4 Nov.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 5 scattered rep most from Sep and early Oct.
Black-billed Cuckoo: Stoller Hill Rd OTSE 2 Sep, only rep.
Com. Nighthawk: max 41 SusR 15 Sep; most reports from SusR.
Chimney Swift: max 350 SusR 8 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last DELA 23 Sep; Stoller Hill Rd OTSE 23 Sep.

RAILS – LARIDS

Virginia Rail: MHL 6 Sep; Sherburne Railroad Marsh CHEN 9 Sep.
Sora: BoPd 30 Sep, only report.
Com. Gallinule: max and last 3 Sherburne Railroad Marsh CHEN 12 Sep.
Am. Coot: max 14 OtsL 19 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: max 11 BUNP 15 Nov, flyover; 3 Balf Rd CHEN 3-24 Sep.

Am. Golden-Plover: T Smyrna CHEN 12-17 Sep; Kilroy Rd CHEN 13-15 Sep.

Ruddy Turnstone: Glimmerglass SP OTSE 14 Sep, ph.

Baird's Sandpiper: Ireland Rd CHEN 12 Sep, ph.

White-rumped Sandpiper: DorP 14-15 Sep (JW, MD, mob, ph); Deposit DELA 20 Oct (LV).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 14 BoPd 19 Oct.

SABINE'S GULL (R4): DorP 25 Sep (JW, ph).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 17 DorP 20 Oct.

Greater Black-backed Gull: max 4 Cortland Gravel Pit CORT 26 Nov.

Caspian Tern: 2 DorP 8 Sep; Glimmerglass SP OTSE 7 Sep.

Com. Tern: max 4 DorP 18 Sep; Kilroy Rd CHEN 11 Sep.

Forster's Tern: 4 PepR 8 Sep, only rep.

LOONS – PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: 2 CannR 23 Oct; DorP 26 Oct-20 Nov; Millbrook Town P CHEN 15 Nov, ph.
Com. Loon: max 65 TomakRd 11 Nov, flyover (AT); 17 MHL 30 Oct.

Am. Bittern: Carantonan Greenway TIOG 28 Sep; MHL 7 Oct.

Great Egret: max 7 Marshall Andrews P CHEN 8 Sep; last MHL 20 Oct.

Cattle Egret: Goodrich Rd TIOG 27-31 Oct, (DG, ph, mob); T Laurens OTSE 7 Nov.

NOTE: FMHW totals cover 26 Aug to 30 Dec; averages reflect 2001-2017 data, intro.

Black Vulture: total 15 FMHW, last year 6, slow increase.

Turkey Vulture: total 832 FMHW, 87% above avg.

Osprey: total 83 FMHW, 27% below avg; 12 TomakRd 13 Sep (AT).

Golden Eagle: total 323 FMHW, 85% above avg; max 128 FMHW 25 Oct, E. North America high single day count, *intro*. [Also see write-up on p. 27.]

N. Harrier: total 48 FMHW, 23% below avg.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 418 FMHW, 17% below avg.

Cooper's Hawk: total 64 FMHW, 31% below avg.

N. Goshawk: total 15 FMHW, 23% below avg.

Bald Eagle: total 166 FMHW, 1% below avg; many other rep; very widespread.

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 42 FMHW, 17% below avg.

Broad-winged Hawk: total 1749 FMHW, 19% above avg; 774 TomakRD 13 Sep (AT).

Red-tailed Hawk: total 1147 FMHW, 37% below avg; many other rep.

Rough-legged Hawk: total 2 FMHW, 73% below avg.

Snowy Owl: Vestal BROO 25 Oct, flyover.

Am. Kestrel: total 156 FMHW, 65% above avg; 9 TomakRD 12 Oct.

Merlin: total 53 FMHW, 102% above avg.

Peregrine Falcon: total 28 FMHW, 75% above avg; many rep from Binghamton BROO of resident downtown pair.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Barden Rd TIOG 6 Sep; Downsville DELA 9 Sep; Kilroy Rd CHEN 11 Sep; MHL 28-29 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: T Union BROO 11 Sep; Downsville DELA 15 Sep.

N. Shrike: 5 scattered rep, all in Nov.

Horned Lark: max 65 Covered Bridge Rd DELA 17 Nov.

Winter Wren: max 5 LHNC 2 Oct.

Marsh Wren: max 4 MHL 12 Oct; TomakRd 24 Sep.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Downsville DELA 2 Sep, only rep.

Veery: last Johnson City BROO (NFC) 20 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Johnson City BROO (NFC) 5 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: last BUNP 18 Oct.

Evening Grosbeak: max 72 Homer CORT 18 Nov; many scattered rep at feeders in Nov.

Com. Redpoll: max 3 Balsam Swamp SF CHEN 28 Oct; TomakRd 25 & 30 Oct.

Red Crossbill: max 2 SkaL 20 Nov; DorP 18 Nov.

Pine Siskin: max 34 T Spencer TIOG 20 Nov; 97 other scattered reports most at feeders.

Lapland Longspur: 2 Laurel Bank Rd DELA 17 Nov; North Rd CHEN 10 Nov.

Snow Bunting: max 25 Whitney Point 28 Nov; 17 other rep in Nov.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 6 TIOG 10 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 2 Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 9 Sep; last TomakRD 5 Nov.

Vesper Sparrow: max 6 River Rd Downsville DELA 28 Oct; Fairfield Rd TIOG 21 Oct.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Unadilla Boat Launch DELA 22 Sep.

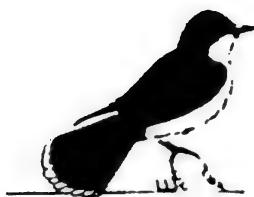
Rusty Blackbird: max 12 MHL 30 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: max 6 LHNC 28 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: TomakRd 3 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 9 Sep, MHL 21 Sep.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The fall season began on a warm note. In Syracuse a high of 92.5°F, was recorded on 5 September. The average temperature for the month was 65.6°, 3.6° higher than normal. Rainfall for September was 3.25", which is close to the historic average. Climate data for October was unremarkable, with all temps and precipitation values tracking close to average. November was a different beast altogether. The average temperature in Syracuse was 34.5°, slightly more than 6° below normal. By mid-month the Region plunged into early winter with all the trimmings. A 15-16 November storm deposited close to 11 inches of snow over much of the Region. An unseasonable -1° was recorded in Syracuse on the day after Thanksgiving and the mercury dipped even lower in high elevations and rural valleys. On that same day a bone chilling -26° was recorded in Old Forge in the Adirondacks. There, a foot of wet snow fell on 27 November and reportedly damaged many trees.

Especially warm weather and the lack of significant fronts pushing through the Region resulted in a sluggish songbird migration—at least by some accounts. Some neotropicals lingered at stopover habitat for a prolonged period and availed themselves of insect and fruit resources. In southern Oneida County, one birder reported seeing what he suspected were the same Ovenbirds and Swainson's Thrushes (among other species) day after day. In the same area, groves of fruit-laden Black Cherry trees were picked clean by persistent mixed foraging flocks heavy with Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, American Robins, and Purple Finches. Northerly winds on 8 September allowed Matt Brown to witness a diverse collection of migrating raptors from Bishop Road west of Pulaski. On 19 September, favorable winds again produced a decent raptor flight at the same site. Like the previous flight it was relatively light on Broad-winged Hawks. Snow Goose migration seemed on track to start early (late November), but in much of the Region it was barely discernable. Like the bulk of the Broad-winged Hawk flight, the geese largely bypassed the Region. According to Bill Purcell, the fall gull movement over Derby Hill was disappointing and featured few of the season's specialties, most notably kittiwakes and jaegers. Regarding the dearth of Purple Sandpiper reports, Purcell recalled the words of the late legendary birder and long-time Region 5 editor Fritz Scheider, who told him that once the ice starts forming on the shoreline rocks, Purple Sandpipers become hard to find. Freezing of the Region's wetlands in mid-November drove

waterfowl onto larger lakes with ample open water, but rendered the birds not always so visible.

Waterfowl migration was largely unremarkable, with no rarities found, nor were any significant high counts reported. Both common teal species were poorly represented. A maximum number of only six Blue-winged Teal was tallied at Sandy Pond on 4 September. Although counts of diving ducks were also down, oft missed Canvasbacks were observed in several locations. All three scoter species were also found, albeit in modest numbers. Contrary to the season's trend, high counts of Hooded Mergansers were impressive, with a maximum of 158 observed on Otisco Lake on 19 November. A runner-up high tally of 120 was found in West Eaton on 15 November. Once again, Ruddy Duck numbers were low with the maximum of only 15 reported from Woodman Pond on 24 October. A single N. Bobwhite seen momentarily in a Cleveland yard (north of Oneida Lake) on 10 October was almost certainly of domestic origin. The NYSDEC's promotion of raise-and-release programs for bobwhites continues to show no sign of fostering a self-sustaining population in the Region.

There were four reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoos during the period. The last one, submitted by Deborah Dohne, was observed and photographed along Onondaga Lake on 9 November and was record late for the species in Region 5. The sighting occurred more than a month after the next latest report. Further research revealed a pattern of late fall 'reverse migration' where a few Yellow-billed Cuckoos that presumably passed weeks earlier end up back in the Great Lakes Region. On 27 October an immature male **Rufous Hummingbird** (found in Constantia) was brought to Kindred Kingdoms Wildlife Center in Pennellville. There, wildlife rehabilitators Jean and Len Soprano oversaw its recovery. This is only the third Regional record of the species, all in fall, though an adult male bird in 2012 continued into and through the winter season.

Although the number of shorebirds found this period was relatively low, the number of species encountered was average. Single Whimbrel were found on the Lake Ontario shoreline: at Fair Haven on 2 September and Sandy Pond on 9 September. Both Red Phalarope and Red-necked Phalarope were also found this period. On 3 October Sarah Dzielski photographed a Red Phalarope at Oneida Shores Park, the bird essentially straddling the Onondaga/Oswego county line. A second Red Phalarope was seen by multiple observers as it flew over Derby Hill on 10 November. A Red-necked Phalarope found in Marcellus on 8 September remained for three days and was seen by several birders.

Bill Purcell reported that, with few exceptions, the Derby Hill gull flight was lackluster. Only one Black-legged Kittiwake flew by, on 21 November, and merely a handful of Parasitic Jaegers were tallied, four on 17 October and two on 3 November. On 7 November at Oswego Harbor, a possible Pomarine Jaeger was observed trying to force gulls with full crops to disgorge. Birders compared notes but felt the bird was too far out to be sure. Sylvan Beach has traditionally been the Region's most reliable place to encounter large quantities of

Bonaparte's Gulls, and this fall the birds did not disappoint. On 4 November, 600 Bonaparte's Gulls were counted. Single **Little Gulls** were observed flying over Derby Hill on three dates between 17 October and 14 November. A Little Gull lingered at the south end of Onondaga Lake between 11 and 15 November and was seen by many birders. At Sandy Pond on 11 November, Matthew Brown saw and photographed a **Forster's Tern** as it stood on a sand spit with Common Terns.

On a small lake near Old Forge in northern Herkimer County on 7 October, Gary Lee counted 71 Common Loons—obviously staging. According to Lee, that was the highest count he had ever had at that location. He further reported that one Common Loon with offspring remained in the Adirondacks through at least the start of October. On 3 November at Derby Hill, David Wheeler saw an adult **Northern Gannet** flying low to the water. Although the rarity was seen only at a great distance, Wheeler said it was unmistakable and provided a description. On 6 October, Gregg Dashnau saw two cormorants flying together during his watch at the Three Rivers confluence. One was substantially larger than the other and “beyond normal size variation” for Double-crested Cormorant. He thought the larger one was a good candidate for **Great Cormorant** but stopped short given the lack of confirming field marks.

Only one American Bittern was encountered this period, in Old Forge on 9 September. Reports of **Cattle Egret** came from opposite ends of the Region, east and west. Barbara and Larry Hall saw two Cattle Egrets foraging in a cow pasture in Little Falls. The birds were photographed several times between 8 and 10 November. The other Cattle Egret was found by Matt Brown north of Pulaski on 14 November. A single adult Black-crowned Night-Heron was observed from near Onondaga Lake between 11 and 14 September. The location continues to be the Region's most reliable place to find night-herons.

Generally, the numbers of raptors migrating over the Region was unimpressive. A low number of Golden Eagles, only three, was tallied this period, which was interesting considering the record number of Goldens counted at Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch in adjacent Region 4 during the latter part of October. To no one's surprise, Northern Goshawks were hard to come by this period. In the southern highlands of Madison County, near the hamlet of Sheds, at least one adult Northern Goshawk was seen hunting the vicinity of Linda Salter's birdfeeders on several occasions. The season's first Rough-legged Hawk arrived in Syracuse on 16 October. A maximum count of three passed over the Bishop Road Hawkwatch on 26 October and 4 November. Single Rough-legs were reported from only 10 other locations. Relatively few Eastern Screech-Owls were reported this fall. On 30 November, Wildlife Rehabilitator Jean Soprano received an E. Screech-Owl that had been injured by a trap presumably set for furbearers. The owl came from Elbridge. Another one of the Region's rehabilitators, Deb Saltis in Town of Herkimer, reported receiving two Red-tailed Hawks that were injured by traps. One came from Waterville on 5 November and the other from Schuyler on 8 November. Both hawks died from

injuries sustained. Unfortunately, it's not unusual for raptors to be caught in traps baited with meat and it's safe to say that we only hear about a small percentage of the victims. Most simply die or are maimed and discarded. These raptors are collateral damage to a trapping sport that is actively promoted by the NYSDEC but typically receives little to no oversight and is far more brutal than other methods of 'harvesting' wildlife.

The first Snowy Owl of the season arrived in Lysander on 2 November. With only two subsequent reports, it became clear it was not going to be a big invasion year for Snowies. Christopher Briggs, a Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Hamilton College, undertook a Northern Saw-whet Owl banding project in forested land owned by the college in the Town of Kirkland. Over the course of three evenings in late October, Briggs and his assistants caught, banded, and released 44 Northern Saw-whets, 28 of which were caught on the evening of 26 October. Of the 44 examined, 30 were clearly female, three were clearly male, and 11 were of indeterminate sex. 29 were determined to be hatch-year birds; six were second-year, and nine were older than second-year. This was the second year Briggs undertook this excellent project and he hopes to continue it in future fall seasons. A N. Saw-whet Owl died after colliding with a vehicle in Orwell, Oswego County on 9 November.

Sightings of Red-headed Woodpeckers came from three locations, two on the Lake Ontario shoreline, and none were reported after 9 October. There were widespread reports of Merlins this fall. A maximum number of four was tallied near Pulaski by Matt Brown on 4 November. Two Merlins were seen in the vicinity of their nest in Constantia on 23 September. The resident pair of Peregrine Falcons in Utica remained on territory through the period. There were several reports of the pair dealing with migrant interlopers (other Peregrines) and evicting them from the territory. In Syracuse, reports on the presence of the resident pair were sporadic. Another pair of adults (unbanded) was recovered in the Syracuse area; both had been trapped inside open exhaust stacks. The male was rescued alive and brought to Kindred Kingdoms Wildlife Center on 8 October. Unfortunately, the female had expired before discovery. It's speculated that the male entered the second stack while investigating distress calls from the trapped female. Following treatment, the recovered male was subsequently released to the wild.

Migrating Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were more in evidence than usual. The species was found in a dozen locations through 18 September. An intriguing 6 October report of Loggerhead Shrike migrating near Pulaski went unconfirmed after the editors could not reach the observer for details. A Northern Shrike was found by Deborah Dohne at Onondaga Lake on 19 November. The bird continued until the end of the fall reporting season. Will it make the west shore its winter home? Mickey Scilingo did an exemplary job monitoring the migrant songbirds that passed along the north shore of Oneida Lake and by his Constantia property. Most notable was the significant movement of Blue Jays. In fourteen sessions between 16 September and 14

October, Scilingo tallied 10,275 migrating jays. The heaviest flights took place between 24-27 September. He counted 2,339 on 23 September, 2,263 on 24 September, and 2,725 on 27 September. Scilingo's records show that the bulk of the movement took place between 8 and 10 AM on those days. Scilingo also detected a significant push of Black-capped Chickadees, counting 74 on 27 September and 59 on 14 October. Although large numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were not tallied in any one location, the sheer number of reports and the unusual places they were being found was testament to their irruption. A maximum count of nine was tallied near Sandy Pond on 4 September. The number of Winter Wren reports was down this period. The high count was six and came from Highland Forest in southern Onondaga County on 9 October.

Gray-cheeked Thrushes were especially hard to come by. Reports came from only three locations. The movement of American Robins was barely discernable to most of us, but that was not the case in Constantia, where Mickey Scilingo had two good days. The biggest influx happened on 30 October when 2,031 robins flew along the Oneida lakeshore. The heaviest part of the flight occurred between 8:00 and 8:35 AM. The robins were part of a larger movement of songbirds that took place that morning. At least 81 Eastern Bluebirds passed through as well. Scilingo wrote that it was difficult to get an exact number and he was certain that he undercounted. There were relatively few reports of Brown Thrashers this fall. The last one was observed in Camillus on 13 October.

An irruption of winter finches was predicted in the Region, however their numbers were anything but widely distributed. Evening Grosbeaks began showing up at bird feeders on 17 October, but only became reliable visitors in the Region's higher elevations. Common Redpolls arrived on 11 November but were reported in very few areas. White-winged Crossbills arrived on 31 October but never attained appreciable numbers. As is typical, the supply of Pine Siskins was much greater than the other winter finches, and the species was much more evenly distributed throughout the Region. Reports of Vesper Sparrow came from five areas, the last in Van Buren on 20 November. A single Grasshopper Sparrow was reported from Utica on 18 October, late for the species.

Counts of Eastern Meadowlarks rarely exceed single digits in recent years, but a dozen were tallied at the Bishop Road Hawkwatch on 9 September. Through the end of November, an adult male Baltimore Oriole visited Linda Salter's property near the Madison County hamlet of Sheds. There, the brightly plumaged neotropical "non-migrant" was treated like a king and feasted on jelly and the flesh of ripe oranges. Why would he ever want to leave? There were some respectable flights of blackbirds this period, with the largest flocks moving in the latter half of October. The best number was 15,700 Common Grackles counted in Mexico on 24 October.

Warbler migration was typical of recent years. It featured a decent spread of species but, generally, the tallies of individuals were low. Matt Perry remarked that he could usually still find all the same species he was able to record ten and twenty years before, but in order to do so he needed to walk ten

times as far. Orange-crowned Warblers were found at nine locations, which is better than average. Bill Purcell counted 10 Cape May Warblers at his Hastings property on the first day of September. At the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk, Deborah Dohne also noticed good numbers of Cape Mays especially given the short distance of the walk. Nearby she found a very late House Wren. Mostly gone by the second week of October, the bird was found on 9 November. While still found in fair numbers in November along the Atlantic coast, the species is exceptionally rare in upstate NY, with only three prior records for late fall: 1 December 1951 and 1960, and 7 November 1974. Dohne also contributed a record-late Blackpoll Warbler on 15 November. Prone to linger into late fall before undertaking a heroic migration, the sighting is three weeks later than the next latest, a 25 October bird also found by Dohne and enjoying brief record-late status until the November sighting. Same bird? Like House Wren, the species rarely lingers upstate. Although the high counts of Bay-breasted Warblers were not particularly impressive, reports of the species were numerous and widespread. Reports of Bays were nearly twice as numerous as those of Blackburnian Warblers, which seems odd. High counts of the latter species also never exceeded two. An “**Audubon’s Yellow-rumped Warbler**” was observed and photographed in East Syracuse on 12 October by Jen Fabian. One day later, a hybrid Myrtle x Audubon’s Yellow-rump was photographed at Three Rivers WMA. On 10 October at the Three Rivers confluence, Gregg Dashnau first heard and then observed two **Dickcissels** passing over him. It was a brief encounter but Dashnau was confident of the ID.

Deborah Dohne continues to monitor developments along the west shore of Onondaga Lake and summarized in a report to the editors. In it she wrote “Water was high all fall, both in the lake and Onondaga and Nine Mile creeks. Not as good for shorebirds this year. Some recently planted vegetation is starting to mature. Frogs were found along the West Shore; I have never seen them at the lake before. Significant clearcutting along the West Shore Trail was done, and a massive sea of asphalt paved over formerly grassy State Fair lots that have attracted plovers and other grass-pipers in the past. The woods that were cut have regularly held four Wood Thrush, presumably breeders, on that section of the trail. They’ll likely return in spring to find their territories gone.” On the positive side, Dohne further noted an excellent concentration of sparrows, robins, and other half-hardies continuing through November and with seemingly little reason to leave the brushy areas. The lake itself is of course tremendously important to migrating and wintering waterfowl. We look forward to continued reports on the lake-cleanup effort and alteration of the landscape.

A total of 240 species and one hybrid was reported for the season, which is five more than the recent 10-year average of 235. Highlights included: **Rufous Hummingbird**, Whimbrel, Golden Eagle, Red-necked Phalarope, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, Forster’s Tern, **Northern Gannet**, **Cattle Egret**, Snowy Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Evening Grosbeak, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler

(Audubon's), and Dickcissel.

Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02 was used to process 43,912 eBird records from 297 contributors.

The editors of Region 5 note with sadness the passing of Marge Rusk on 20 September 2018. Marge had a hand in virtually every bird conservation project that took place in the Region for over 60 years. She oversaw and/or participated in Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Survey routes, both NYS Breeding Bird Atlases, Winter Waterfowl counts, Birdathons, and more. She was a former Kingbird Region 5 editor and a dedicated contributor for many decades. She was very active in the Onondaga Audubon Society and served as the chapter's delegate to NYSOA annual meetings. Marge was a first-class birder and conservationist, generous with her knowledge, and a keeper of the oral history of birding in the central NY area. She was considered a mentor to many of Region 5's most active birders and conservationists. In 2017, Marge's contributions to bird conservation and record keeping were recognized by the Kirkland Bird Club when she was awarded their annual Conservation Award. To this day, the editors still consult Marge's large box of seasonal records when compiling quarterly reports. Her summaries providing first, last, and notable counts and locations for all four seasons and all species known to the Region, span an incredible 60+ years. Marge's legacy lives on in the respect for birds and conservation she fostered in so many others. As the 'Hooded Warbler' she closed every Birdathon 'big day' by ceremoniously lowering her yellow and black scarf. We were fortunate to know her.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks (n. HERK); **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** –

Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **Hast** – Hastings; **HI** – Howland I WMA; **MNWR east** – Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **OF** – Old Forge, HERK; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **PPt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango, MADI; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **TRC** – Three Rivers Confluence, Phoenix; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr 5 SP 2 Oct; max 1680 hast 20 Nov; relatively few reps.

Brant: arr FH 27 Sep; 320 WP 13 Oct; max 855 DH 16 Oct; last SVB 22 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr & max 6 WP 7 Oct; 4 SP 26 Oct; 4 Sangerfield 9 Nov.

Canada Goose: max 4200 WP 7 Oct; 3870 Hast 20 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 32 FH 22 Oct.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 FH 7 Sep; max 10 FH 4 Nov; 4 OnonL 30 Nov.

Tundra Swan: arr 3 FH 28 Oct; max 207 PPt 14 Nov; 17 TR 29 Nov; best numbers from OneiL.

Wood Duck: max 50 UM 2 Sep; 31 DL 13 Sep.

Blue-winged Teal: max 6 SP 4 Sep; last WP 15 Oct; few reps.

N. Shoveler: arr 2 MNWR east 4 Oct; 8 UM 2 Nov; max 9 OLC 12 Nov.

Gadwall: arr MNWR east 4 Oct; 20 UM 2 Nov; max 40 FH 4 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: arr 3 OnonL 7 Sep; max 83 WP 1 Nov; 78 DH 21 Nov.

Mallard: 230 FH 22 Oct; max 250 SVB 24 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 113 DH 21 Oct; 93 Altmar 15 Nov.

N. Pintail: arr FH 8 Sep; max 314 DH 16 Oct; 16 WP 12 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 24 TR 3 Nov; 15 UM 2 Nov.

Canvasback: arr DH 17 Oct; 5 WP 19 Nov; max 13 West Monroe 30 Nov; reps from 3 other locs.

Redhead: arr Brew 3 Oct; 27 Otisco Lake 19 Nov; max 100 OnonL 30 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 8 Great Swamp Conservancy 6 Oct; max 680 Const 11 Nov; 450 WP 12 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr WP 16 Oct; max 20 DH 10 Nov; 13 OnonL 15 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr 3 OswH 23 Sep; 39 WP 9 Nov; max 62 OnonL 14 Nov.

Greater Scaup/Lesser Scaup: 800 Cleveland 11 Nov.

aythya species: 350 OnonL 25 Nov.

Surf Scoter: arr 3 OF 8 Oct; max 29 DH 12 Oct; 11 SVB 5 Nov; relatively widespread.

White-winged Scoter: 3 FH 9 Sep; 22 SSSP 8 Oct; max 24 DH 20 Oct.

Black Scoter: arr SSSP 8 Oct; 5 SVB 5 Nov; max 14 SP 15 Nov.

Surf Scoter/Black Scoter: 35 Cavenovia 18 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr FH 17 Oct; 300 SP 2 Nov; max 630 DH 10 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr DH 17 Oct; max 68 SVB 5 Nov; 45 DH 10 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 2 DH 20 Oct; 32 West Eaton 15 Nov; max 100 Otisco Lake 25 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 120 West Eaton 15 Nov; max 158 Otisco Lake 19 Nov.

Com. Merganser: 400 SVB 6 Oct; max 420 FH 24 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 2 SP 5 Oct; 210 FH 31 Oct; max 250 OswH 15 Nov.

Com. Merganser/Red-breasted Merganser: 110 Jamesville 22 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr DeWitt 8 Oct; max 15 WP 24 Oct; low numbers.

N. Bobwhite: Cleveland 10 Oct, only rep.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 West Monroe 24 Oct; max 3 TR 3 Nov; singles 8 other locs.

Ruffed Grouse: max 9 SFNS 4 Sep; low

numbers.

Wild Turkey: 25 Little Falls 9 Nov; max 39 Pine Meadow OSWE 13 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: 7 WP 29 Oct; max 19 OnonL 19 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr OnonL, DH 20 Oct; 29 FH 22 Oct; max 30 DH 4 Nov; 13 OnonL 30 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr WP 9 Oct; 4 DH 28 Oct; max 11 OnonL 20 Nov.

Rock Pigeon: 200 Bville 16 Nov; max 215 Tully 24 Nov.

Mourning Dove: 51 Richland 2 Nov; 56 Syr 24 Oct; max 90 Dolge 24 Nov.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Elbridge 9 Sep; Baltimore Woods 29 Sep; Port Ontario 7 Oct; last OnonL 9 Nov (DD), record late for Reg.

Com. Nighthawk: max 7 Syr 15 Sep; last Syr 18 Sep; singles from 8 other locs.

Chimney Swift: max 10 Elbridge 5 Sep; 6 GLSP 8 Sep; last 2 Syr 17 Sep.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Const 27 Oct (JS, ph), 3rd Reg rec, *intro*.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 6 Pulaski 1-2 Sep; max 7 Pulaski 8 Sep; last Marcellus 27 Sep.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 2 SH 5-11 Sep; last SH 17 Sep; reps from two other locs.

Sora: HI 15 Sep, only report.

Com. Gallinule: 5 UM 9 Sep; max 7 OnonL 7 Sep; 5 HI 15 Sep; last UM 8 Oct.

Am. Coot: max 13 WP 1 & 6 Nov; last 5 OnonL 25 Nov; few reps.

Sandhill Crane: 2 SHTF 16 Sep; 2 HI 23 Sep; max 3 Port Byron 21 Nov.

Black-bellied Plover: 4 Stillwater Reservoir 20 Sep; max 7 SP 2 Oct; last DH 10 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 14 SP 1 Oct; last SP 5 Oct; singles 4 other locs.

Semipalmented Plover: 3 FH 2 Sep; max 28 SP 7 Sep; last 5 SP 6 Oct.

Killdeer: max 60 SHTF 16 Sep; 46 Syr 2 Oct; last 3 OnonL 15 Nov.

Whimbrel: FH 2 Sep (DD); SP 9 Sep (MB).

Ruddy Turnstone: max 4 SP 4 Sep; last SP 22 Sep; only reps.

Red Knot: max 4 SP 12 Sep; last SP 2 Oct.

Stilt Sandpiper: SP 4 Sep, only rep.

Sanderling: max FH 7 Sep; 12 DH 18 Oct; last FH 7 Nov.

Dunlin: 19 OswH 18 Oct; max 40 SP 6 Nov; 13 DH 10 Nov; last FH 17 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: SP 3 Sep, only rep.

Least Sandpiper: 9 SP 4 Sep; max 11 Marcellus 8 Sep; 7 SHTF 9 Sep; last OnonL 25

Sep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 4 SP 5 Sep; last FH 27 Oct; Waterville 11 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 12 Bridgeport 5 Oct; 7 DeWitt 26 Oct; last DeWitt 29 Oct.

Semipalmented Sandpiper: 7 SHTF 2 Sep; max 30 SP 8 Sep; last OnonL 28 Oct.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 6 SP 3-5 Sep; max 7 Marcellus 8 Sep; last SP 16 Sep.

Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher: 4 SP 2 Sep; MNWR east 4 Oct.

Am. Woodcock: max 5 TR 10 Oct; last SFNS 1 Nov.

Wilson's Snipe: 2 HI 7 Oct; last TR 10 Oct; only reps.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 Marcellus 9 Sep & 3 West Eaton 13 Sep; last Brew 14 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: 4 Manlius 9 – 17 Sep; max 6 West Eaton 16 Sep; last Lake Julia, ONEI 20 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 9 SP 5 Sep & 9 Marcellus 9 Sep; last Fayetteville 19 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: 8 Marcellus 9 Sep; max 20 Stillwater Reservoir 20 Sep; last OnonL 12 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs/Greater Yellowlegs: max 7 Marcellus 9 Sep & 7 SP 10 Sep.

Red-necked Phalarope: Marcellus 8 – 11 Sep (AB, mob, ph).

Red Phalarope: Brew 3 Oct (SD, ph); DH 10 Nov (mob).

Parasitic Jaeger: arr & max 4 DH 17 Oct (DW); 2 DH 3 Nov (BP, DW); only reps.

Pomarine/Parasitic Jaeger: OswH 7 Nov (GD, DW).

jaeger species: FH 22 Sep (KM); DH 21 Nov (DW).

Black-legged Kittiwake: DH 21 Nov (BP, DD), only rep.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 600 SVB 4 Nov (DW); 200 OnonL 12 Nov (DW).

Little Gull: DH 17 Oct (BP, mob); OnonL 11-15 Nov (DW, DD, mob); DH 10 Nov (KM, mob); DH 14 Nov (SP, ph).

Ring-billed Gull: 1000 OnonL 30 Oct; max 2000 SVB 4 Nov.

Herring Gull: 142 DH 20 Oct; max 250 SVB 4 Nov.

Iceland Gull: arr OswH 31 Oct-18 Nov; Phoenix 19 Nov; DH 27 Nov; SSSP 27 Nov; only reps.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr DH 21 Oct; DH 3 Nov; DH 4 Nov; max 2 SVB 4-7 Nov; DH 21 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: arr FH 4 Nov; FH 15 Nov; max 3 DH 21 Nov; OswH 23 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 45 SVB 1 Oct; 23 SP 11 Nov.
Caspian Tern: max 36 SP 4 Sep; last OswH 11 Oct.
Com. Tern: 111 SP 4 Sep; max 118 SVB 10 Sep; last SP 11 Nov.
Forster's Tern: SP 11 Nov (MB, ph).

LOONS - PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: arr 2 DH 12 Oct; 4 OnonL 19 Nov; max 9 DH 21 Nov.
Com. Loon: max 71 OF 7 Oct (GL), high count for loc; 66 DH 21 Nov (DD).
NORTHERN GANNET (R5): DH 3 Nov (DW!), ad.
Double-crested Cormorant: 900 OswH 25 Oct; max 1250 FH 26 Oct.
Great/Double-crested Cormorant: TRC 6 Oct (GD), *intro*.
Am. Bittern: OF 9 Sep, only rep.
Great Blue Heron: max 11 SP 9 Sep; 8 TRC 20 Nov.
Great Egret: max 10 Memphis 21 Sep; 6 DB 6 Oct; Kirkville 5 Nov.
CATTLE EGRET (R5): 2 Little Falls 9-10 Nov; Pulaski 14 Nov (MB, ph).
Green Heron: 6 West Monroe 1 Sep; max 7 UM 11 Sep.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: OLC 11-14 Sep (DD).
Turkey Vulture: max 478 Pulaski 5 Oct; 168 BRH 7 Oct; 241 TRC 8 Oct.
Osprey: max 6 TRC 1 Sep & 6 TRC 8 Sep & 6 BRH 19 Sep; last WP 20 Oct.
Bald Eagle: 31 BRH 8 Sep; max 35 BRH 19 Sep; 24 Pulaski 5 Oct.
N. Harrier: 6 BRH 8 Sep; max 21 Pulaski 5 Oct (MB), good number; 6 BRH 7 Oct.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 11 BRH 8 Sep; 11 BRH 19 Sep; max 45 Pulaski 5 Oct.
Cooper's Hawk: 3 TRC 29 Sep; 3 Pulaski 5 Oct; max 7 Brew 14 Oct.
N. Goshawk: Sheds intermittent thru (LS); only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 10 Pulaski 5 Oct; 3 Const 14 Oct; singles 8 other locs.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 204 BRH 8 Sep; 77 DB 9 Sep; 99 BRH 19 Sep; last BRH 7 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 142 Pulaski 5 Oct; 66 Brew 14 Oct; 49 BRH 4 Nov.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Syr 16 Oct; max 3 BRH 26 Oct & 3 BRH 4 Nov; singles 10 other locs.
Golden Eagle: arr Const 14 Oct; BRH 4 Nov; Mindenville 10 Nov; only reps.
E. Screech-Owl: max 2 Marcellus 9 Sep;

Elbridge 30 Nov (JS), injured by trap; singles 12 other locs.

Great Horned Owl: 2 Fayetteville 23 Sep-18 Nov; 2 Hast 23 Oct; 2 Hamilton 30 Nov.

Snowy Owl: arr Lysander 2 Nov; Oneida 13 Nov; OnonL 24-25 Nov.

Barred Owl: 2 HI 15 Sep; 2 Syr 1 Oct.

N. Saw-whet Owl: max 28 Kirkland 16 Oct (CB!), banded, *intro*. Orwell 9 Nov (JS), expired following impact.

Belted Kingfisher: max 3 OF 9 Sept & 3 DB 9 Sep & 3 Richfield Springs 12 Sep & 3 HI 15 Sep.

Red-headed Woodpecker: DH 5 Sep; max 3 FH 16 Sep; 2 Utica 9 Oct; only reps.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 7 Const 27 Sep; max 14 TRC 4 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 8 TRC 28 Sep-3 Oct; 5 OnonL 5 Oct.

Downy Woodpecker: 7 TRC 3 Oct; max 9 HI 7 Oct.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 Pulaski 15 Sep & 5 CM 3 Oct & 5 WP 26 Oct.

N. Flicker: 13 OnonL 14 Sep; max 21 TRC 28 Sep.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 5 Marcellus 7 Sep; 4 SFNS 7 Sep.

Am. Kestrel: 12 BRH 8 Sep; max 14 BRH 19 Sep; 11 Pulaski 5 Oct.

Merlin: 2 GLSP 8 Sep; 2 SFNS 17 Sep; 2 Const 23 Sep; max 4 Pulaski 5 Oct; 2 Sangerfield 4 Nov; widespread reps.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 BRH 8 Sep; 2 BRH 19 Sep; resident pr Utica thru; max 3 Pulaski 5 Oct; Syr 8 Oct (JS), ad, m, unbanded, liberated from chimney, *intro*; 2 Syr 12 Oct; 2 DH 21 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: 2 Sauquoit 2 Sep; 2 SFNS 6 Sep; 2 TRC 1-2 Sep; last Rice Creek Field Station 18 Nov.

E. Kingbird: max 3 OLC 11 Sep; last OLC 12 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Syr 1-2 Sep; SH 11 Sep; only reps.

E. Wood-Pewee: 6 Sauquoit 2 Sep; max 7 TRC 17 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: SFNS 1-14 Sep; HI 15 Sep; last Syr 18 Sep; singles 9 other locs.

Alder Flycatcher: 2 Pulaski 1-2 Sep, only report.

Willow Flycatcher: 2 TRC 1 Sep; last CM 6 Sep.

Alder/Willow Flycatcher: max 3 TRC 8 Sep; 2 HI 15 Sep; last Dolge 29 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: 3 Sauquoit 2 Sep; max 4 Pulaski 4 Sep; 3 SFNS 6 Sep; last SFNS, TR 6 Oct.

Empidonax species: max 7 GLSP 8 Sep; last Syr 15 Sep.

E. Phoebe: max 7 Pulaski 7 Oct; 6 HI 7 Oct.

N. Shrike: arr DeWitt 8 Oct; singles at 7 other locs.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 3 SP 2 Sep; 3 Brew 5 Sep; last & max 5 HI 15 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: 3 TRC 28 Sep; 3 SH 5 Oct; max 4 SFNS 6 Oct; last FH 26 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: 2 GLSP 8 Sep; 2 TRC 8-19 Sep; 2 HI 15 Sep; last TR 28 Sep.

Warbling Vireo: max 6 WP 4 Sep & 6 HI 15 Sep; last TR 27 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 8 SFNS 1 Sep; 7 TRC 12-15 Sep; last SFNS 8 Oct.

Blue Jay: 2339 Const 23 Sep; 2263 Const 24 Sep; max 2725 Const 27 Sep (MS), great numbers.

Am. Crow: max 670 BRH 26 Oct; 600 Syr 30 Oct.

Fish Crow: 2 OnonL 4 Nov; all reps from same loc.

Com. Raven: 5 DH 17 Sep; max 6 Const 24 Sep; 6 Pulaski 30 Oct.

Horned Lark: 60 BRH 10 Nov; max 156 Elbridge 17 Nov.

Purple Martin: Hast 15 Sep, only rep.

Tree Swallow: 120 BRH 9 Sep; 60 SP 9 Sep; max 250 HI 7 Oct; last OnonL 14 Nov.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 OswH 11 Sep; last & max 18 HI 7 Oct.

Bank Swallow: 8 SVB 10 Sep; max 10 OswH 11 Sep; last FH 27 Oct.

Cliff Swallow: SP 9 Sep, only rep.

Barn Swallow: 25 Richfield Springs 1 Sep; max 50 OLC 2 Sep; last HI 7 Oct.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 74 Const 27 Sep; 59 Const 14 Oct, migrant flights.

Tufted Titmouse: 6 Brew 5 Sep; max 10 Const 30 Sep; 6 Elbridge 22 Nov.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 9 Pulaski 4 Sep; 6 GLSP 8 Sep; 6 Const 23 Sep.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 12 Const 27 Sep; max 15 Syr 8 Oct.

Brown Creeper: 4 SFNS 10 Oct; 2 FH 4 Nov.

House Wren: max 5 SFNS 5-8 Sep; 4 Elbridge 9 Sep.

Winter Wren: 4 SFNS 6 Oct; max 6 SH 9 Oct; 3 TR 16 Oct.

Marsh Wren: max 6 HI 15 Sep; 2 TR 20 Sep; last Marcellus 10 Oct; reps from 2 other areas.

Carolina Wren: max 3 HI 15 Sep & 3 OnonL 20 Nov; 2 Poolville 3-23 Sep.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: TRC 1 Sep; GLSP 1 Sep; Pulaski 4 Sep; last Syr 15 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 16 Syr 14 Oct; 12 SFNS 6-9 Oct; max 25 OnonL 9 Nov.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 25 Brew 9 Oct & 25 TRC 14 Oct; 22 Brew 14 Oct; last Syr 21 Nov.

E. Bluebird: 40 HI 7 Oct; max 81 Const 30 Oct; 31 Const 4 Nov.

Veery: max 2 TRC 12 Sep & 2 HI 15 Sep; last TRC 30 Sep; relatively few reps.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 4 HI 15 Sep; last 3 Syr 29 Sep; TRC 17 & 19 Sep (GD).

Swainson's Thrush: max 13 HI 15 Sep; 2 SFNS 18-24 Sep; 3 Syr 19 Sep; last Brew 18 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: 3 Moss Lake, Adks 6 Sep; max 4 SFNS 18-19 Oct & 4 TRC 18 Oct; 3 Syr 28 Oct.

Wood Thrush: max 8 HI 15 Sep; 2 SFNS 11-19 Sep; 2 TRC 4-17 Sep; last SFNS 30 Sep.

Am. Robin: 225 TRC 22 Oct; max 2031 Const 30 Oct (MS); 850 Const 4 Nov.

Gray Catbird: max 25 UM 9-11 Sep; 19 HI 15 Sep; last OnonL 9 Nov.

Brown Thrasher: 2 SFNS 6-13 Sep; max 3 West Winfield 17 Sep; 2 TRC 17 Sep; last Camillus 13 Oct; relatively few reps.

N. Mockingbird: 2 Canastota 6 Oct; max 6 Syr 8 Nov; most reps south and west of OneIL.

European Starling: 1500 Fort Plain 19 Sep; max est 8000 DeWitt 15 Nov.

Cedar Waxwing: 70 SFNS 17 Oct; max 100 TRC 22 Oct; 73 Noyes Sanctuary 18 Nov.

House Sparrow: max 60 Syr 3 Sep.

Am. Pipit: arr DB 6 Oct; max 8 OLC 12 Nov; reps from 5 other locs.

Evening Grosbeak: arr Dolge 17 Oct; 38 Dolge 17 Nov; 53 Georgetown 18 Nov (LS); max 71 Pulaski 22 Nov; many reps from higher elevations.

House Finch: 20 DH 7 Oct; max 25 Camillus 16 Nov.

Purple Finch: max 30 Dolge 9 Sep; 18 SFNS 12-19 Sep.

Com. Repoll: arr Pulaski 11 Nov; 41 TRC 18 Nov; max 44 Tully 24 Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: arr & max 3 SFNS 31 Oct; singles 4 other locs.

Pine Siskin: arr Dolge 8 Sep; 50 Pulaski 1 Nov; max 80 Dolge 7 Nov.

Am. Goldfinch: max 200 SFNS 11 Oct; 75 OnonL 19 Oct.

Lapland Longspur: arr & max 2 OswH 11 Nov & 2 DH 10 Nov; Elbridge 17 Nov; only reports.

Snow Bunting: arr FH 20 Oct; 80 Richland 5 Nov; max 186 Fairfield 24 Nov.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: max 8 SFNS 18 Sep; 5 TR 12-28 Sep.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr TR 26 Oct; max 30 OnonL 19 – 24 Nov; 16 Tully 25 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 85 Jamesville 13 Sep; 45 DH 7 Oct.

Field Sparrow: max 12 GLSP 8 Sep; 9 Minoa 18 Oct; OnonL 24 Nov.

Vesper Sparrow: Dolge 4 Sep; TR 14 Oct; Cleveland 14 Oct; last Van Buren 20 Nov.

Savannah Sparrow: max 7 SHTF 16 Sep; 4 Richland 7 Oct; last OnonL 5 Nov.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Pulaski 18 Oct (MP), only rep.

Fox Sparrow: arr Dolge 17 Oct; 4 Const 14-16 Nov; max 12 Three Mile Bay WMA 14 Nov.

Song Sparrow: 40 TR 5 Oct; max 150 HI 7 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Dolge 14 Sep; max 8 TR 5 Oct; 2 SH 5 Oct; 2 Pulaski 7 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: 5 TR 30 Sep; max 30 HI 7 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 124 SH 5 Oct; 105 TR 5 Oct; 70 HI 7 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Pulaski 28 Sep; 19 Dolge 20 Oct; max 30 Pulaski 24 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: 75 Lycoming 21 Oct; max 149 Const 4 Nov.

Bobolink: 2 Sauquoit 2 Sep; max 35 SFNS 1 Sep; last Pulaski 7 Oct; few reps.

E. Meadowlark: max 12 BRH 9 Sep; 3 Const 24 Sep; last 2 Dolge 30 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: 9 Elbridge 1 Sep; max 23 Const 2 Sep; Sheds MADI ad male at feeders thru period (LS), very late, *intro*.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 3500 26 Oct; 1310 TRC 31 Oct.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 OnonL 7 Sep; max 100 Syr 17 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird: 25 Brew 23 Oct; max 181 TRC 9 Nov; last Dolge 13 Nov.

Com. Grackle: 5700 Hast 17 Oct; 5000 BLNC 19 Oct; 5000 SFNS 21 Oct; max 15700 Mexico 24 Oct (BP).

blackbird species: max 15000 Syr 30 Oct.

Ovenbird: max 2 SFNS 1-23 Sep; 2 Sauquoit 2 Sep; 2 Cicero 1 Oct; last TR 6 Oct.

N. Waterthrush: SFNS 6 Sep, only rep.

Golden-winged Warbler: SFNS 6 Sep, only rep.

Blue-winged Warbler: Hast 2-5 Sep; SFNS 4

Sep; only reps.

Black-and-white Warbler: 2 SFNS 4 Sep; max 4 GLSP 8 Sep; 2 TRC 8-12 Sep; last Syr 6 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: max 11 HI 15 Sep; 6 SFNS 19-28 Sep; last Kirkville 12 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr HI 15 Sep; max 2 Brew 14 Oct & 2 SP 26 Oct; last FH & SP 26 Oct; singles 5 other locs.

Nashville Warbler: 5 TRC 8 Sep; 5 SFNS 23 Sep; 5 TR 5 Oct; max 6 DH 7 Oct; TRC 23 Oct.

Mourning Warbler: Hast 2 Sep; SFNS 4 Sep; last TR 11 Oct; only reps.

Com. Yellowthroat: 8 SFNS 7-15 Sep; max 12 UM 9 Sep; last Dolge 29 Oct.

Hooded Warbler: max 2 SFNS 1 Sep & 2 Pulaski 2 Sep; last SFNS 28 Sep.

Am. Redstart: 5 SFNS 6 Sep; max 7 TRC 8 Sep; last OneiL 28 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: max 10 Hast 1 Sep (BP); 8 Syr 14 Sep; 3 OLC 15 Sep; last Pulaski 9 Oct.

N. Parula: max 5 OLC 15 Sep; 3 Brew 19 Sep; 3 SFNS 19 Sep; last OLC 16 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: max 10 TRC 8 Sep; 6 SFNS 18 Sep; 8 Const 27 Sep; last Kirkville 12 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 5 HI 15 Sep; 4 Brew 19 Sep; 3 TRC 28 Sep; last Toad Harbor 14 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: 2 BLNC 4 Sep; 2 SFNS 4-7 Sep; 2 VBSP 9 Sep; 2 SH 13 Sep; last DH 6 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: max 4 FH 2 Sep; last OnonL 30 Sep (DD).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 5 Erieville 2-4 Sep; 3 Fulton 8 Sep; 3 HI 15 Sep; TR 29 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Erieville, BLNC 4 Sep; max 5 OLC 15 Sep-5 Oct & 5 TRC 28 Sep; 25 Oct OLC (DD), very late; **15 Nov** OLC (DD), rec late for Reg.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 5 SFNS 19 Sep; max 10 Marcy 4 Oct; last Syr 24 Oct.

Palm Warbler: arr UM 15 Sep; 3 Mindenville 3 Oct; max 5 SH 5 Oct; last Pulaski 24 Oct.

Pine Warbler: max 4 SH 13 Sep & 4 Pulaski 28 Sep; 3 SSSP 6 Oct; last Syr 21 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 35 UM 7 Oct; max 55 Brew 14 Oct; 33 Const 14 Oct.

**YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER
(AUDUBON'S):** Syr 12 Oct (JF, SP), 5th Reg rec.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's x Myrtle intergrade): TR 13 Oct (EM, ph), 1st Reg rec.

Prairie Warbler: Dolge 14 Sep, only report.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 7 GLSP 8 Sep; 5 TRC 8 Sep; 6 SFNS 20-28 Sep; last SFNS 20 Oct.
Canada Warbler: max 2 Pulaski 4 Sep & 2 SFNS 5-6 Sep & 2 TRC 8 Sep; last Manlius 8 Oct.
Wilson's Warbler: max 5 SFNS 5 Sep & 5 TRC 12 Sep; Pulaski 22 Oct.

Scarlet Tanager: 4 SFNS 12 Sep; max 6 HI 15 Sep.
N. Cardinal: 12 Syr 6 Sep; max 15 UM 9-11 Sep; 12 Westmoreland 27 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 10 SFNS 15-17 Sep; last Alder Creek & Syr 6 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: max 8 OnonL 14 Sep; 3 Van Buren 13 Sep; last 3 Van Buren 4 Oct.
DICKCISSEL: 2 TR 10 Oct (GD).

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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September was very warm, with high temperatures exceeding 80°F in Watertown on twelve days, including a seasonal high of 92° on 5 September. Temperatures were more seasonable through October and the first half of November, but the last three weeks of the season were much colder than average, with low temperatures dropping to -7° on the nights of 21-22 and 22-23 November, very early for subzero temperatures. September was dry throughout Region 6, but, while precipitation totals for Watertown were 1-2 inches below normal in October and November, much of the Region was much wetter than average both months.

Waterfowl numbers and diversity were generally unexceptional. For yet another fall season, very few Snow Geese were reported in Region 6. One Greater White-fronted Goose at the Canton sewage ponds on 14 October and a Richardson's Cackling Goose at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA 17-19 October were the only unusual goose reports of the season. On 27 October one Eurasian Wigeon was at Wilson Hill WMA, where this species has been found annually for about a decade. Unlike most recent falls, both Canvasback and King Eider were unreported, and maximum counts of most regular duck species were lower than usual.

Nick Leone has found a **Pacific Loon** in Chaumont Bay or Guffins Bay annually since 2012 and this year saw one in Chaumont Bay on 21 October. Surprisingly, a second Pacific Loon turned up in the St. Lawrence River at Waddington on 17 November, an apparent first record for St. Lawrence County. A high count of seven Red-throated Loons at Tibbetts Point on 20 October was a decent count for Region 6, but Nick Leone's high Common Loon count of 44 in the bay complex west of Watertown was about one-third his normal maximum count, and counts from elsewhere on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River were similarly low.

Shorebirds were surprisingly scarce given the seeming abundance of foraging habitat that resulted from continuing dry conditions through September. For instance low water at the Stone Mills Pool at Perch River WMA exposed vast mudflats that appeared ideal for large flocks of shorebirds, but most visitors noted modest numbers and relative low diversity. Yellowlegs were present on the Stone Mills Pool in decent numbers well into October and were joined by a smattering of other species, most notably two Stilt Sandpipers on 21 September. In typical fashion, most visits to the Lake Ontario shoreline turned up few to no shorebirds, but there were a few nice surprises, including the season's only Ruddy Turnstones, which Eileen Wheeler saw at El Dorado on 5 September and a Regionally rare **Purple Sandpiper** that Logan Kahle saw flying from a jetty at Mud Bay in Cape Vincent on 20 October. The usual autumn drawdown of the St. Lawrence River between the Iroquois and Robert Moses dams exposed extensive mudflats that were reliably good for shorebirds for several weeks, leading to the season's only phalarope sightings: one Red-necked Phalarope, which Hollis White photographed at Robert Moses State Park on 23 September, and a Wilson's Phalarope at Coles Creek State Park on 27 October.

For most of the season the fall passerine migration seemed about average, and there certainly wasn't anything like the spectacular pulse of warblers that was seen on Fort Drum during late August and early September last year. A few species seemed more abundant than usual. The 39 Philadelphia Vireos reported this fall is twice the previous maximum seasonal tally and three times the seasonal average for the past 15 years. It includes a daily high count of six at Fort Drum on 13 September. Similarly, the 28 Orange-crowned Warblers documented this fall is well more than double typical fall tallies. During most years, the last Orange-crowned Warbler report comes before 23 October, but this year eight reports came after this date, including a bird I found in Canton on 4 November and one Steve Kelling saw on Point Peninsula on 11 November. A number of other songbirds lingered past typical departure dates, most notably Nashville Warbler, with numerous reports in mid October and one on Point Peninsula as late as 18 November. A Hooded Warbler on Fort Drum on 5 October was a very rare fall sighting for Region 6.

As expected, several finch species irrupted into northern New York, although numbers were generally modest. Evening Grosbeaks first arrived on 5 October, and by the end of the month were widespread in Region 6 in low numbers, creating much excitement based on the number of people who happily told me they had Evening Grosbeaks at their feeders for the first time in many years. Common Redpolls started filtering in during late October, and on 26 October the first Pine Grosbeak was heard over El Dorado. The main influx of Pine Grosbeaks did not arrive until mid-November, and few were seen in the Region away from central and northern St. Lawrence County. Pine Siskins were widely reported, but there were just two Red Crossbill and one White-winged Crossbill reports, all of birds heard flying over Fort Drum.

Rarities not previously mentioned include a **Dickcissel** heard over El Dorado on 14 September and a **Nelson's Sparrow** in a Fort Drum marsh on 24 September. This latter sighting is the third record involving four individual Nelson's Sparrows on Fort Drum since 2014. It seems likely that this species occurs in Region 6 more frequently than records suggest. On 22 October, an **intergrade Northern Flicker** was at Fort Drum, a male showing a red malar stripe and yellow feather shafts. Unfortunately this flicker was only seen briefly and could not be relocated or photographed.

For the season, I received reports of 238 species, the highest fall tally by eight species over the last 15 years and perhaps the highest ever documented in Region 6. This high species tally is largely thanks to the continued increase in the number of birders visiting the Region from elsewhere, raising the odds that rarities or low-density migrants will be detected. It should also be noted that prior to about 2005 there really was no consistent effort to document every species that was reported in the Region each season. Many historic Region 6 reports seem to show a lack of occurrence or reporting for numerous species that surely were present.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart I, T Massena; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **BRV** – Black River Valley; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **CWF** – Canton Wastewater Treatment Facility; **ED** – El Dorado Preserve; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Installation; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **HH** – Henderson Harbor; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; **JCSP** – Jacques Cartier SP; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **LPSP** – Long Pt SP; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMAr; **MM** – Massawepie Mire; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **OCP** – Otter Creek Preserve, T Alexandria; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt, JEFF; **PRWMA** – Perch R WMA; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, JEFF; **RBP** – Red Barn Preserve, T Morristown; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RWSP** – Robert G. Wehle SP; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SLR** – St. Lawrence R; **TP** – Tibbetts Pt, T Cape Vincent; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr FD 5 Oct; only 7 other reports; max 250 each T Croghan & T Pinckney 18 Nov; no significant flight by end Nov.

Greater White-fronted Goose: CWF 14 Oct (JB), only report.

Brant: arr & max 325 MP 15 Oct; last 3 JCSP 11 Nov.

"Richardson's" Cackling Goose: ULLWMA 17-19 Oct (JB), only report.

Mute Swan: 2-6/day W JEFF thru; no other reports.

Trumpeter Swan: rep from 6 loc, including new sites in T Rossie & T Theresa.

Tundra Swan: arr ED 26 Oct; max 300 PtPen 24 Nov.

Wood Duck: last 5 BRV 9 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 120 PRWMA 2 Sep; last ULLWMA 18 Oct.

N. Shoveler: max 4 PRWMA 26 Oct, low.

Gadwall: max 90 PRWMA 26 Oct.

Eurasian Wigeon: transitional m WHWMA 27 Oct (JB), only report.

Am. Wigeon: max 1125 WHWMA 27 Oct, high.

Am. Black Duck: max 120 WHWMA 27 Oct.

N. Pintail: max 210 WHWMA 8 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 685 WP 30 Sep.

Canvasback: no reports.

Redhead: max 160 WHWMA 12 Oct, low.

Ring-necked Duck: max 3045 WHWMA 8 Oct.

Greater Scaup: max 700 LPSP 11 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 34 WHWMA 8 Oct.

Surf Scoter: arr PtPen 7 Oct; max 7 SBSP 26 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: arr SLR T Louisville 8 Oct; max 14 MP 26 Oct.

Black Scoter: arr PtPen 7 Oct; max 32 JCSP 14 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: arr BRB 8 Oct; max 340 MP 15 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr ULLWMA 18 Oct; max 50 PtPen 18 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr FD 18 Oct; max 94 PtPen 17 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 86 T Louisville 9 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 79 PilPt 26 Oct.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 161 TP 20 Oct.

Ruddy Duck: ULLWMA 2 Sep & 8-18 Oct; SLR T Massena 4 Nov; only reports.

Spruce Grouse: 3 MM 2 Sep.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 62 ULLWMA 14 Sep; last T Watertown 17 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr SLR T Hammond 23 Sep; max 8 ED 26 Oct.

Red-necked Grebe: arr SLR T Hammond 23 Sep; 3 rep, max 2 incl SLR T Hammond 26 Sep, CCSP 21 Oct, & ED 26 Oct.

Black-billed Cuckoo: last T Louisville 12 Oct.

Com. Nighthawk: last T Adams 7 Sep.

E. Whip-poor-will: 3 T Croghan 2 Sep, only report.

Chimney Swift: last PWMA & RWSP 2 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last CV 19 Sep.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: last PRWMA 22 Sep.

Sora: last PRWMA 24 Sep.

Com. Gallinule: max 12 PRWMA 4 Sep; last WHWMA 3 Oct.

Am. Coot: last CV 22 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: WHWMA 1 & 9 Sep; FD 11 Sep; 2 ULLMWA 18 Sep & 2 Oct; PRWMA 22 Sep; ED 26 Oct; last RRT 14 Nov.

Black-bellied Plover: max & last 19 LWMA 2 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: Thousand Islands Park 15 Sep; WP 15 Sep; only reports.

Semipalmated Plover: max 59 WHWMA 16 Sep; last WP 27 Oct.

Killdeer: last 2 PtSal 21 Oct.

Upland Sandpiper: heard over T Potsdam 30 Sep (NK), only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 ED 5 Sep (EW) only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: 2 PRWMA 21 Sep (JB), only report.

Sanderling: max 22 ED 8 Sep; last 2 SLR T Massena 4 Nov.

Dunlin: max & last 124 LWMA 2 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: CV 20 Oct (LK), rarely documented R6.

Baird's Sandpiper: BI 5 Sep; PRWMA 9 Sep; FD 24 Sep; only reports.

Least Sandpiper: max 53 WP 1 Sep; last WHWMA 8 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: PRWMA 13 Sep; ED 16 Sep & 21 Oct; last 5 SLR T Massena 4 Nov.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 8 PRWMA 24 Sep; last WHWMA 4 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 9 PRWMA 20 Sep.

Short-billed Dowitcher: PRWMA 4 & 21 Sep; WP 16-18 Sep; only reports.

Wilson's Snipe: last PRWMA 13 Oct; unusually scarce.

Spotted Sandpiper: last WHWMA 29 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: last T Canton 27 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 54 PRWMA 21 Sep; last LWMA 2 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 32 PRWMA 13-26 Oct; last CV 10 Nov.

Wilson's Phalarope: CCSP 27 Oct (JB), only report.

Red-necked Phalarope: RMSP 23 Sep (HW, photos!), only report.

Parasitic Jaeger: TP 20 Oct (LK). only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 45 HH 14 Sep.

Iceland Gull: HP 17 Nov & PtPen 30 Nov; only reports.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: HP 17 Nov, only report.

Glaucous Gull: 2 CV 8 Sep (GF), rare before Nov.

Caspian Tern: last CV 23 Sep.

Com. Tern: last ED 8 Sep.

LOONS - PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: arr SLR T Massena 8 Oct; max 7 TP 20 Oct.

PACIFIC LOON: T Lyme 21 Oct (NL); SLR off Little Sucker Brook Park 17 Nov (JB, EW).

Com. Loon: max 44 PilPt 26 Oct.

Am. Bittern: last RBP 14 Oct.

Great Egret: max 50 ULLWMA 26 Sep; last PRWMA 13 Oct.

Green Heron: last CV 24 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last PRWMA 22 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: scarce after 4 Nov; last T Lowville 24 Nov.

Osprey: last LWMA 18 Oct.

N. Goshawk: RRT 11-15 Oct, only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: last T Philadelphia 13 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: last FD 27 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr PtPen 20 Oct.

Golden Eagle: CCSP 27 Oct, only report.

E. Screech-Owl: 4 reports.

Snowy Owl: arr T Lyme 29 Oct.

Short-eared Owl: 6 PtPen 18 Nov thru.

N. Saw-whet Owl: T Canton 7 Sep, only report.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 10 FD 12 Sep, where last 27 Sep; T Brownville 19 Oct (AB); last T Lowville 27 Oct (EM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: scarce after 4 Oct; last PtPen 11 Nov (SK).

N. FLICKER "INTERGRADE": as m FD 22 Oct red malar stripe & yellow flight feather shafts.

Merlin: 32 rep, 27+ ind.

Peregrine Falcon: ICNC 19 Sep; 2 PRWMA thru 26 Oct; only reports away from SLR T Massena & T Louisville and T Watertown, where resident.

FLYCATCHERS - SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: last FD 17 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last PRWMA 9 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last T Canton 16 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: last PtPen 22 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last FD 5 Sep.

Alder Flycatcher: last T Croghan 2 Sep.

Willow Flycatcher: last RRT 3 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last PtPen 20 Oct (LK), late.

E. Phoebe: generally absent by 4 Nov; T Leray 29 Nov (JB), late.

N. Shrike: arr FD 24 Oct.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last FD 13 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last PtPen 20 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: 21 FD 4 - 27 Sep, incl max 6 on 13 Sep, high; 18 from 12 additional loc, more than usual; last ULLWMA 3 Oct; *intro*.

Warbling Vireo: last RRT 23 Sep.

Red-eyed Vireo: last CUT 10 Oct.

Horned Lark: max 29 T Madrid 18 Nov.

Tree Swallow: last PtPen 29 Oct.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 2 LWMA 12 Sep.

Bank Swallow: last PRWMA & RWSP 5 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last PRWMA 10 Sep.

Barn Swallow: last 4 LWMA 12 Sep.

House Wren: last FD 11 Oct.

Winter Wren: last PtPen 18 Nov.

Sedge Wren: last FD 3 Oct.

Marsh Wren: last FD 17 Sep.

Carolina Wren: 9 rep, 4 ind all W JEFF.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last PRWMA 2 Sep.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: migr arr 20 Sep; max 17 ED 26 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 4 Sep; last FD 20 Nov.

Veery: last FD 13 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: nocturnal migr over T Canton & T Potsdam 19 & 30 Sep & 1 Oct; last FD 2 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: last FD 18 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: last FD 30 Oct.

Wood Thrush: last T Croghan 27 Sep.

Gray Catbird: last FD 16 Oct.

Brown Thrasher: last RRT 8 Oct.

N. Mockingbird: PtPen 22 Sep, only report.

Bohemian Waxwing: 4 CUT 18 Nov (NK), only report.
Cedar Waxwing: max 135 ED 26 Oct.
Am. Pipit: max 5 ED 26 Oct; last CV 17 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: arr T Croghan 5 Oct; widespread in low numbers by late Oct; max 22 T Pinckney 9 Nov.
Pine Grosbeak: early arr ED 26 Oct, only report until T Madrid 17 Nov; max 16 ULLWMA 24 Nov.
Purple Finch: steady southbound migration late Sep thru early Nov; max 22 FD 5 Oct.
Com. Redpoll: arr FD 22 Oct.
Red Crossbill: FD 12 Sep & 18 Oct; only reports.
White-winged Crossbill: FD 22 Oct, only report.
Pine Siskin: widespread thru; max 40 LWMA 2 Nov.
Lapland Longspur: arr T Clayton 14 Oct; max 6 CV 22 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr FD 22 Oct.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: scarce after 3 Oct; last CV 20 Nov (DM).
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr FD 23 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: max 150 FD 15 Oct; last KC 9 Nov.
Field Sparrow: last FD 22 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: last T Watertown 20 Nov.
Savannah Sparrow: last PtPen & WHWMA 21 Oct.
NELSON'S SPARROW (R6): FD 24 Sep (JB), where 4th record & 3rd in 5 years.
Fox Sparrow: arr WHWMA 22 Sep; max 26 FD 23 Oct; last T Croghan 17 Nov.
Song Sparrow: mostly scarce after 5 Nov, but many near L Ontario thru.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last FD 22 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: scarce after mid-Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: max 165 FD 11 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr WHWMA 29 Sep; last T Lowville 24 Nov.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr PtPen 22 Sep.
Bobolink: last WHWMA 22 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: last FD 1 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: last FD 17 Sep.
Rusty Blackbird: arr PRWMA & RRT 22 Sep; max 40 FD 2 Nov, low; last T Canton 10 Nov.
Com. Grackle: scarce after 10 Nov.
Ovenbird: last WHWMA 3 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last ED 14 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last FD 17 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last FD 15 Oct.
Tennessee Warbler: last FD 5 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr PtPen 22 Sep; 13 FD 27 Sep - 25 Oct, more than usual; last PtPen 11 Nov, late; 13 ind, 8 additional loc; excellent year, *intro*.
Nashville Warbler: 2 FD 18 Oct (JB) late; PtPen 18 Nov, very late (LK, KE).
Com. Yellowthroat: generally absent by 4 Oct, but a few lingered to late Oct; last FD 29 Nov.
Hooded Warbler: FD 5 Oct (JB), rarely reported during fall.
Am. Redstart: last PtPen 22 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: generally absent after 3 Oct, but 1 at KC feeder 29 Oct - 19 Nov (RB, DM, photos!).
N. Parula: max 25 PtPen 22 Sep; last ICNC 6 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last Murray I 6 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last FD 3 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last OCP 3 Oct (JG), late.
Yellow Warbler: last FD & KC 11 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last CV 20 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last FD 9 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last FD 5 Oct.
Palm Warbler: last T Canton 12 Oct.
Pine Warbler: last FD 15 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last T Massena 6 Nov.
Prairie Warbler: last ED 14 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last FD 11 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last ED 14 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last T Watertown 27 Sep.
Scarlet Tanager: last FD 3 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last RRT 3 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last PtPen 22 Sep.
DICKCISSEL (R6): heard over ED 14 Sep (JB).

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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August's hot, dry weather continued throughout September and beyond. Temperatures in Region 7 averaged 3° to 5° hotter than normal except in the High Peaks region, where they were only 1° to 3° warmer. Rainfall totals in September ranged from 4" in the north near the border with Canada to 5" in the south of Essex County. There was a dramatic increase to 9" at the southern end of Hamilton County due in part to the remnants of Hurricane Florence.

In October temperatures moderated slightly, but rainfall totals remained low. Near normal temperatures in the north and south of Region 7 sandwiched temperatures that were 1° to 3° above normal in the central area. However, rainfall totals in the Champlain Valley were only 3" to 4", but 4" to 5" for the month for the remainder of the Region. In the western portion of Hamilton County the totals increased to 6".

November was cold and wet. Temperatures were 3° to 5° colder than normal in the eastern half of the Region and 5° to 7° colder in the western half. Precipitation totals (melted equivalent) ranged from 4" to 5" in the north to 7" to 8" in southern Hamilton County. Winter Storm Avery on the 16th dumped over 12" of snow in the Champlain Valley and considerably more in the mountains. This snow cover, three to four weeks or more earlier than usual, caused the bulk of the Snow Geese to leave early. Normally the upwards of 50,000 individuals that use the Champlain Valley as a staging area on their way south linger well into December. With the corn fields under all that much snow, the bulk of them left within a week. There were a few thousand individuals that lingered past Thanksgiving, but overall the numbers were well below normal.

As expected the variation of the level of Lake Champlain closely mirrored precipitation events. It began in September at the unusually low level of 94.2□. At that level the mudflats at Laurin's Pool in the north were dry and shorebird activity was vanishingly small. Fortunately, the opposite was true at Noblewood Park, where shorebirds found an increase in suitable habitat. A low of about 93.8□ was recorded in the last week of September. The October high was still below 94.8□. With the advent of the November rains, the lake level rose sharply, but the rate of rise tapered off when the rain changed to snow. The month ended with the level at 96.1□.

This year's Winter Finch Forecast predicted, "This is an irruption (flight) year for winter finches." Reports up to the end of November were encouraging and appeared to confirm the predictions for Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, and Common Redpoll. However, as of the end of the season, there had been no reports of either Hoary Redpoll or either crossbill.

For the second year in a row **Pink-footed Goose** was found in Clinton

County on 25-26 September. This was only the second record for the county and the third for Region 7, all this year and last. It is possible that the east winds of 23-24 September contributed to its wandering off course. A **Tufted Duck** from Port Henry continued the string of nearly yearly appearances of this species in the Champlain Valley. A **Pacific Loon** on Treadwell Bay was only the third record for Clinton County and the fourth for Region 7. A **Brown Booby**, possibly the same bird seen in Vermont, landed on the mast of a sailboat on Long Lake and posed for photos while it lingered for a time. A **Cattle Egret**, rare in fall, spent three days on a farm in Beekmantown just before winter storm Avery blanketed the area. A single **Golden Eagle** in Cadyville was the Region's only record. A **Snowy Owl** on 29 October was an early record for Clinton County.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIC – Adirondack Interpretive Center; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CA** – Cadyville; **CFB** – Conroy Farm, Beekmantown; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CL** – Clorojast; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CPd** – Connery Pd; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CTH** – Coot Hill; **FB** – Ferd's Bog; **FtC** – Fort Covington Marsh; **GMt** – Giant Mt; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **IL** – Indian L; **KN** – Keene; **LC** – La Chute; **LLk** – Long L; **LPd** – Long Pd; **Mad** – Madawaska Pd; **MF** – Mooers Forks; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MPCR** – Moose Pd Club Rd; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MRC** – Malone Rec Center; **NF** – N. Farm Rd; **NP** – Noblewood P; **PB** – Plattsburgh Bay; **PH** – Port Henry; **PL** – Plattsburgh; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RL** – Round L; **RP** – Rouses Pt; **RW** – Rugar Woods; **SL** – Saranac L; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **SP** – Shaw Pd; **SPB** – Spring Pd Bog; **SPe** – Speculator; **SR** – Salmon R; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TL** – Tupper L; **TRB** – Treadwell Bay; **WB** – Wallons Bay; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WP** – Westport; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WV** – Westville.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr CR 8 Sep (SR).
Ross's Goose: HB 22 Sep (J&PT); 2 KB 29 Oct (SR).

Greater White-fronted Goose: RP 8 Nov (ED).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: MF 25 SEP (ED); MF 26 SEP (GC, SR).

Brant: 93 CP 14 OCT (SR).
Cackling Goose: 5 PB 16 OCT (SR).
Canada Goose: 300 PB 17 Oct.
Wood Duck: 46 LC 4 Sep (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: 27 LC 4 Sep (SR).
N. Shoveler: CP 11 Sep (SR).
Gadwall: 6 CP 11 Sep (SR).
Am. Wigeon: 13 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Am. Black Duck: 34 CP 11 Sep (SR).
N. Pintail: 14 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Green-winged Teal: 83 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Redhead: CP 11 Sep (SR).
Ring-necked Duck: 5 SP 12 Sep (KC).
TUFTED DUCK: PH 29 Nov (ED).
Greater Scaup: 25 PB 16 Oct (SR).
Lesser Scaup: 12 AP 20 Oct (AB).
scaup sp: 900 PB 10 Nov.
Surf Scoter: 5 PB 16 Oct (SR).
White-winged Scoter: 40 PH 13 Oct (SR).
Black Scoter: PH 12 Sep (SR); IL 22 Oct (JT), rare FRAN.
Long-tailed Duck: PB 29 Oct (BMc); IL 8 Oct (JT), v. rare FRAN.
Bufflehead: 2 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Com. Goldeneye: 2 HB 18 Sep (RB).
Barrow's Goldeneye: PH 28 Nov (SR).
Hooded Merganser: 14 CR 27 Oct.
Com. Merganser: 24 WP 1 Oct (SR).
Red-breasted Merganser: 8 NP 22 Sep (SR); 16 TRB 8 Nov (HK).
Ruddy Duck: TI 28 Oct (GC).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 2 WRS 15 Oct (SR).
Ruffed Grouse: 6 LPd 13 Sep (KC).
Spruce Grouse: SPB 16 Sep (JL).
Wild Turkey: 15 MF 26 Sep (GC).
Pied-billed Grebe: LC 4 Sep (SR).
Horned Grebe: 2 CH 18 Oct.
Red-necked Grebe: CH 13 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: 3 TI 9 Sep (GC).
E. Whip-poor-will: BRR 18 Sep (GCh).
Chimney Swift: TI 9 Sep (MC).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 BRR 11 Sep (GCh).

RAILS - LARIDS

Com. Gallinule: CR 16 Sep (SR).
Am. Coot: LC 27 Sep (GC).
Black-bellied Plover: NP 18 Oct (SR).
Am. Golden-Plover: AP 20 Oct (AB).
Semipalmented Plover: AP 22 SEP (MB).
Stilt Sandpiper: LC 30 Sep (AB).
Sanderling: 4 NP 22 Sep (SR).
Dunlin: AP 15 Oct (KM).
Baird's Sandpiper: CR 8 Sep (SR).
Least Sandpiper: 7 CR 8 Sep (SR).
White-rumped Sandpiper: TI 16 Sep (GC).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: WV 18 Sep (HW); LC 29 Sep (GC).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 6 CR 26 Sep (GC).
Semipalmented Sandpiper: CR 8 Sep.
Am. Woodcock: CPd 6 Oct (GCh); SPE 31 Oct (RS).
Wilson's Snipe: CR 8 Sep (SR).
Spotted Sandpiper: AP 17 Sep (LM).
Solitary Sandpiper: 3 AP 17 Sep (LM).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 WD 24 Sep; 9 LC 17 Sep (SR).
Greater Yellowlegs: 4 AP 15 Sep.
Bonaparte's Gull: 40 NP 2 Sep (MM).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: CP 11-27 Sep (SR), continuing.
Glaucous Gull: WD 29 N0v (SR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 6 PB 24 Oct.
Caspian Tern: 13 LC 4 Sep (SR); 2 CR 26 Sep (ED).
Com. Tern: 19 NP 2 Sep (MM).

LOONS - PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: AP 20 Oct (AB); IL 22 - 26 Oct (JT), v. rare Fran.
PACIFIC LOON: 2 TRB 8 Nov (HK).
Com. Loon: 31 LC 1 Oct (GL, NS).
BROWN BOOBY: LLk 2 Sep (BL).
Double-crested Cormorant: 550 CP 11 Sep (SR); 400 CR 26 Sep (ED).
GREAT CORMORANT (R7): TRB 16 Sep (HK).
Am. Bittern: CR 8 Sep (SR).
Great Blue Heron: 4 TI 9 Sep (MC); 9 LC 17 Sep (SR).
Great Egret: 2 CR 8 Sep (SR).
CATTLE EGRET (R7): CFB 11-14 Nov (NO, PC, MS), rare in fall.
Green Heron: 6 LC 4 Sep (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 9 LC 17 Sep (SR).
Black Vulture: 3 CTH 15 Sep (NO, MS); 8 TI 9 Nov (GCh).
Turkey Vulture: 2 AP 25 Sep (ED).
Osprey: 2 CP 11 Sep (SR); LC 1 Oct (AB).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): CA 21 Sep (MB).
N. Harrier: NF 26 Sep (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: CR 8 Sep (SR).
Cooper's Hawk: CH 15 Oct (SJ).
Bald Eagle: 2 CA 21 Sep (MB).
Red-shouldered Hawk: WP 22 Sep (J&PT).
Broad-winged Hawk: CL 18 Sep (JHaa).
Red-tailed Hawk: LC 4 Sep (SR).
Rough-legged Hawk: FtC 8 Oct (ABr).
E. Screech-Owl: CP 11 Sep (SR).
Great Horned Owl: 2 AIC 7 Sep (AB).
Snowy Owl: PB 29 Oct (ED), early Clin date.

Barred Owl: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
N. Saw-whet Owl: MPCR 7 Sep (AB).
Belted Kingfisher: CR 26 Sep (GC).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 5 CP 11 Sep (SR); AP 17 Sep (LM).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: FB 27 Sep (MMo).
Black-backed Woodpecker: FB 27 Sep (MMo).
N. Flicker: 3 RL 12 Sep (AB).
Pileated Woodpecker: TL 7 Sep (AB).
Am. Kestrel: 2 LC 11 Sep (AB).
Merlin: AP 16 Oct (SR).
Peregrine Falcon: AP 25 Sep (ED); SR 16 Oct (SR).

FLYCATCHERS - SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: CP 11 Sep (SR).
E. Kingbird: 2 WP 4 Sep (LM).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: KN 5 Sep (J&PT).
E. Wood-Pewee: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: KN 16 Sep (J&PT).
Least Flycatcher: CP 11 Sep (SR).
E. Phoebe: 7 AP 18 Sep (ED).
N. Shrike: ES 7 Nov (SR).
Yellow-throated Vireo: MM 5 Sep (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: Mad 4 Oct (KM).
Philadelphia Vireo: LC 4 Sep (JHaa).
Warbling Vireo: 2 CP 18 Sep (MM).
Red-eyed Vireo: CL 11 Sep (AB).
Canada Jay: 5 BB 7 Oct (BMc).
Fish Crow: HB 13 Sep (CV).
Com. Raven: LC 16 Sep (BB).
Horned Lark: NF 26 Sep (SR).
Tree Swallow: 20 TI 9 Sep MC).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 6 CP 26 Sep (JC).
Bank Swallow: 108 LC 17 Sep (SR).
Cliff Swallow: TI 4 Sep (CV).
Barn Swallow: 2 TI 16 Sep (GC).
Boreal Chickadee: LC 9 Oct (AB).
Tufted Titmouse: AP 16 Oct (ED).
Brown Creeper: SLB 3 Oct (KM).
House Wren: MRC 3 Oct (GC).
Winter Wren: SLB 3 Oct (KM).
Marsh Wren: 2 LC 17 Sep (SR).
Carolina Wren: 2 LC 4 Sep (SR).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: LC 4 Sep (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 LC 16 Sep (AB).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 PtR 29 Oct (SR).
Veery: 2 MPCR 7 Sep (AB).
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: 25 LP 1 Oct (AB).
Swainson's Thrush: MPCR 7 Sep (AB); 50 LP 1 Oct (AB).
Hermit Thrush: 6 LC 13 Oct (AB).
Wood Thrush: WRS 3 Sep (MM).

Gray Catbird: TI 9 Sep (GC).
Brown Thrasher: GMt 8 Sep (OB).
N. Mockingbird: WP 1 Oct (SR).
Bohemian Waxwing: LP 13 Nov (AB).
Cedar Waxwing: CP 22 Sep (MM).
Am. Pipit: 11 AP 25 Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 PS 24 Sep BMc); MM 2 Oct (SR).
House Finch: 19 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Purple Finch: PL 21 Oct (CM).
Com. Redpoll: arr 6 WP 27 Oct (SR).
Lapland Longspur: AP 21 Oct (SR).
Snow Bunting: 14 PH 28 Oct (SR).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: CP 10 Oct (SR).
Am. Tree Sparrow: WP 27 Oct (SR).
Chipping Sparrow: 3 BRR 11 Sep (GCh).
Field Sparrow: NP 6 Oct (MM).
Vesper Sparrow: 3 WP 27 Oct (SR).
Savannah Sparrow: AP 14 Oct (GS), late Clin date.
Fox Sparrow: LC 13 Oct (AB).
Lincoln's Sparrow: LC 27 Sep (GC).
Swamp Sparrow: AP 25 Sep (ED).
White-throated Sparrow: 8 LC 1 Oct (AB).
White-crowned Sparrow: 2 CP 26 Sep (JC).
Bobolink: 4 WRS 3 Sep (MM).
E. Meadowlark: CR 31 Oct (BK).
Baltimore Oriole: LC 4 Sep (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 3 TI 30 Sep (GC).
Rusty Blackbird: LC 1 Oct (GL, NS); WB 9 Nov (RB).
Ovenbird: 2 WRS 3 Sep (MM).
Black-and-white Warbler: 4 WRS 3 Sep (MM).
Tennessee Warbler: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
Orange-crowned Warbler: TI 30 Sep (GC); AP 14 Oct (GS).
Nashville Warbler: WRS 3 Sep (MM).
Mourning Warbler: KN 4 Sep (J&PT).
Com. Yellowthroat: 7 WRS 3 Sep (MM).
Am. Redstart: WRS 4 Sep (MM).
Cape May Warbler: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
N. Parula: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
Magnolia Warbler: 4 WRS 4 Sep (MM); AP 16 Oct (ED).
Bay-breasted Warbler: KN 4 Sep (J&PT).
Blackburnian Warbler: CP 22 Oct (MM).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: CTH 9 Sep (SR).
Blackpoll Warbler: AP 14 Oct (GS).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: MM 5 Sep (SR).
Palm Warbler: 2 AP 18 Sep (ED).
Pine Warbler: LC 4 Sep (SR).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 42 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Black-throated Green Warbler: WRS 4 Sep (MM).
Canada Warbler: RW 13 Sep (MB).
Wilson's Warbler: MM 5 Sep (SR).

Scarlet Tanager: MM 5 Sep (SR).
N. Cardinal: 4 CP 27 Sep (SR).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CL 4 Sep (JHaa).
Indigo Bunting: 3 BRR 11 Sep (GCh).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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September 2018 was warmer and wetter than normal. At Albany, the temperature was 5.3°F above average, with a rainfall surplus of 2.32". There were no significant cold air intrusions, and the lowest temperature was only 43° on 30 September. October ended up very close to the long-term averages, at +1.0° and +0.09" above normal. After a mild opening week November turned cold and wet and stayed that way. Albany was 2.7° colder than normal with 5.59" of precipitation, 2.30" more than normal. 10.4" of snow fell in small batches during the second half of the month. Thanksgiving Day was remarkably cold with a high of only 19°. Local water bodies stayed mostly ice-free thanks to a final week above freezing.

Greater White-fronted Goose was reported three times, with a single bird near Schaghticoke on 22 October, then again on 15 November. A week later another report was received from Hedges Lake near Greenwich. It is possible this was a single individual moving around that area with Canada Geese. Brant moved through the area primarily on 13-17 October this fall, a very narrow window that is typical for the species returning to the wintering grounds. Only a few reports of Redhead were received, and Canvasback was absent, a common occurrence. The same could be said about scoters, with only White-winged Scoter in any numbers. Horned and Red-necked Grebe reports seemed less than normal as well. Dabbling ducks were found in typical locations and numbers for the most part.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was observed in several spots through October, with a very late bird seen on 10 November along the Hudson River in Columbia County.

Shorebird movement continued into October, with Dunlin seen in a few locations. Stacy Robinson observed 13 White-rumped Sandpipers at Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Park, which is located along southern Lake Champlain near Putnam, Washington County on 22 October. A very late White-rumped Sandpiper was found at Galway Lake on 13 November. Pectoral Sandpiper numbers were average, but both species of yellowlegs were observed in reduced numbers.

Rich Guthrie had a single Common Tern along River Rd. in Greene County on 18 September. Stacy Robinson found a **Cattle Egret** resting mid-river in the Hudson at Stillwater on 24 October. There were a couple of sightings of Black-crowned Night-Heron in the first half of September. Three were seen along the Champlain Canal corridor in northern Washington County. The other sighting was an adult and a juvenile at Carter's Pond WMA.

Migrating Broad-winged Hawks put on a show throughout September. The Helderberg Hawk Watch at the overlook in John Boyd Thacher SP had good numbers all month, with a maximum of 204 Broad-winged Hawks seen on 19 September. Northern Saw-whet Owl banding continued again this fall at Albany Pine Bush Preserve. The largest number banded in a single night for the season was 12 on 30 October.

Unquestionably the bird of the season was a **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** found by Larry Alden on 8 October, feeding in and around a weedy field in New Scotland, Albany County. From Larry's eBird report: "Large flycatcher about the size and shape of a mockingbird with noticeably longer tail perched on electric line by 646 Krumkill Road. Tail was not as long as adult male, so it was likely a female or juvenile. Light grayish throat and breast with buffy flanks. Black wings...Darker gray mask on light gray head. I believe this bird may have been at this location for at least a week, as I remember driving by some day last week and noting a bird with a long tail and thinking, "That's a pretty long tail for a mockingbird," but driving on without circling back to figure out what it was. Today was different. In my haste to get word out, the bird disappeared while I was typing on my phone and I didn't even get to see it fly!" At least 80 birders from around the state and a few from out-of-state made the trek to see this rarity. It was also an excellent "teachable moment" for the many residents and passersby who stopped to inquire about the assembled crowd pointing optics into a farm field like so many paparazzi. The bird lingered until 18 October, and was not observed thereafter.

A widespread irruption of Evening Grosbeaks into the Northeast began in mid-October. Many observers were delighted to once again see these gregarious birds at their feeders. Numbers increased through the end of November.

On the morning of 5 October, I arrived at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center to observe bird banding. Warbler activity was winding down for the season, and the influx of sparrows had begun. As I headed up the path towards the station, I watched a sparrow pop up onto a split rail fence. It was facing me, some fifty feet away. It had distinctive ochre from the throat that streaked into the clean white breast and underparts. There were a few fine dark streaks on the flanks. The face seemed to be ochre as well, with a thin line behind the eye. After a minute, it hopped to the ground and disappeared into the bluestem grass in the parking lot. I knew right away that it was a species I hadn't seen before. After perusing various field guides, the best fit was **LECONTE'S SPARROW**, which I had never anticipated seeing in the Region. The only other candidate was Nelson's Sparrow, but it would have been even more orange-faced and

more heavily streaked and unlikely in this very dry habitat. This was the first reported observation of the species in the Region in recent years. A search for the bird on the following day was unsuccessful.

220 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Katie Bird, Mike Birmingham, Matt Brunelle, Nancy Castillo, Gary Chapin, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Andrea Denton, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, Pete Doherty, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Larry Federman, Peter Feinberg, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Brianna Gary, Bernie & Chris Grossman, Rich Guthrie, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, HMBirds Yahoo Group, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Mike McGraw, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Lydia Schereen, Tom Schmidt, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, Donna Wright, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Coxsackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 8000 L George WASH 22 Nov.
Brant: max 300 Four Mile Pt GREE 16 Oct.
Mute Swan: max 7 BCR 19 Oct- 11 Nov.
Wood Duck: max 60 VFNHP 17 Sep.
Blue-winged Teal: max 9 VFNHP 3 Oct.
N. Shoveler: max 10 Stanton Pd ALBA 5 Nov.
Gadwall: max 40 Stanton Pd ALBA 3 Nov.

Am. Wigeon: max 152 Stanton Pd ALBA 23 Oct.

Mallard: max 375 Niskayuna SCHE 29 Nov.

Am. Black Duck: max 64 Petersburgh RENS 30 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 26 Stanton Pd ALBA 3 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 75 VFNHP 28 Oct.

Redhead: max 3 BCR 7 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 690 Loughberry L SARA 9 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 10 Loughberry L SARA 17 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 140 Saratoga L SARA 28 Nov.

Surf Scoter: BCR 4 Nov, only report.

White-winged Scoter: max 10 Saratoga L SARA 15 Nov.

Black Scoter: max 35 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 28 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: max 127 AR 3 Nov.

Bufflehead: max 120 Saratoga L SARA 28 Oct.

Com. Goldeneye: max 750 Saratoga L SARA 28 Oct.

Hooded Merganser: max 225 Saratoga L SARA 15 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 700 TR 27 Nov; Round L SARA 28 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 9 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 14 Oct.

Ruddy Duck: max 497 BCR 4 Nov.

Ruffed Grouse: max 8 Prattsville GREE 30 Sep.

Wild Turkey: max 25 T Root MONT 20 Sep.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 Cossayuna L WASH 4 Nov

Horned Grebe: max 3 T Hauge WARR 24 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: max 3 Snyder L RENS 30 Oct; T Hauge WARR 18-20 Nov; Saratoga L SARA 20 Nov.

Rock Pigeon: max 500 FtEG 15 Nov.

Mourning Dove: max 110 Wrights Loop SARA 7 Nov.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Lewis A. Swyer Preserve COLU 10 Nov.

Black-billed Cuckoo: last Overmountain Cons Area COLU 29 Sep.

Com. Nighthawk: max 26 Edinburg SARA 2 Sep; last 2 Sleepy Hollow L GREE 29 Sep.

Chimney Swift: last 6 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 9 Oct.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Rexford SARA 9 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: max 16 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 7 Oct; last Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 30 Oct.

Killdeer: max 58 CCGP 1 Sep; last S Albany Airport ALBA 4 Nov.

Sanderling: nr CCGP 7 Sep.

Dunlin: max, last 23 BCR 28 Oct.

Least Sandpiper: max 7 Scotia SCHE 19 Sep; last Schaghticoke RENS 21 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 13 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 22 Oct; last Galway L SARA 13 Nov.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 4 Clemons WASH 7 Oct; Malta SARA 16 Oct; last BCR 28 Oct.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max, last 14 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 22 Oct.

Am. Woodcock: last Guilderland ALBA 7 Nov.

Wilson's Snipe: last 3 Copake L COLU 8 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: last 2 Ft Edward WASH 21 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last 4 TR 26 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 2 Clemons WASH 7 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: last 2 BCR 28 Oct.

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Copake L COLU 19-20 Oct.

Caspian Tern: Wright's Ferry Launch WASH 16 Sep.

Com. Tern: Athens GREE 16 Sep.

LOONS - PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: Saratoga L SARA 28 Oct; Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 17 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 18 Bolton WARR 23 Oct.

Least Bittern: BMB 1 Sep, only report.

Great Blue Heron: max 18 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 12 Sep.

Great Egret: max 15 Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 1 Sep; last 2 Schaghticoke RENS 25 Oct.

Little Blue Heron: Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 2-9 Sep.

Cattle Egret: Blockhouse P SARA 24 Oct (SR), *intro.*

Green Heron: max 7 Clemons WASH 1 Sep; last FR 29 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 3 Clemons WASH 1 Sep; 2 Carters Pd WMA WASH 15 Sep.

Black Vulture: max 47 Copake COLU 24 Nov.

Turkey Vulture: max 73 Cobleskill SCHO 16 Oct.

Osprey: last Six Mile Waterworks P ALBA 14 Nov.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: last CRM 3 Oct.

Com. Gallinule: max 4 Carters Pd WMA WASH 15 Sep; last VFNHP 28 Sep.

Am. Coot: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 8 Nov; last 2 Stanton Pd ALBA 21 Nov.

Black-bellied Plover: Blockhouse P SARA 2 Oct; Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 6 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Elka P GREE 4 Nov; Pittstown RENS 11 Nov; Summit SCHO 11 Nov; FR 23 Nov.

N. Harrier: max 3 Helderberg Hawkwatch ALBA 13 Sep; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 22 Sep; TR 4 Nov; Livingston COLU 29 Nov.

N. Goshawk: 10 reports of singles.

Bald Eagle: max 15 Helderberg Hawkwatch ALBA 22 Sep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 3 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 22 Sep.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 204 Helderberg Hawkwatch ALBA 19 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Fultonville MONT 29 Oct.

E. Screech-Owl: max 3 Guilderland ALBA 2 Oct.

Great Horned Owl: max 2 Guilderland ALBA 20 Oct; Hoosick RENS 11 Nov; E. Greenbush RENS 17 Nov; Feura Bush ALBA 18 Nov.

Barred Owl: max 4 Cambridge WASH 1 Sep.

N. Saw-whet Owl: max 12 APBP 30 Oct, bird banding ops.

Belted Kingfisher: max 4 BCR 16 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6 Cambridge WASH 1 Sep.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 9 Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 1 Sep.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 6 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 15 Sep.

N. Flicker: max 18 Overmountain Cons Area 23 Sep.

Am. Kestrel: max 7 Helderberg Hawkwatch ALBA 19 Sep.

Merlin: max 3 CF 1 Sep.

Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Helderberg Hawkwatch ALBA 27 Sep; APBP 1 Oct; Corning riverfront P ALBA 7 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: last Selkirk ALBA 13 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last Grafton RENS 15 Sep.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: New Scotland ALBA 8-18 Oct (LA) mob, NYSARC, *intro.*

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Overmountain Cons Area COLU 3 Sep; APBP 7-17 Sep; Colonie ALBA 7 Sep; FR 8 Sep; Four Mile Pt Preserve GREE 9 Sep; Saratoga Spa SP SARA 12-13 Sep.

E. Wood-peewee: last Clifton Pk SARA 7 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 18 Sep.

“Traill’s” Flycatcher: last APBP 10 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: max 6 Buckingham Pd ALBA 9 Sep; last Wilton Wildlife Preserve SARA 18 Oct, late.

E. Phoebe: max 16 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 16 Sep.

N. Shrike: BCM 12 Nov; Hague WARR 20 Nov; Kingsbury WASH 24 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last Overmountain Cons Area COLU 17 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 8 APBP 5 Oct; last APBP 24 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: last APBP 12 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last Overmountain Cons Area COLU 29 Sep

Red-eyed Vireo: last APBP 12 Oct.

Blue Jay: max 120 Nutten Hooke COLU 29 Sep.

Fish Crow: max 85 CCGP 10 Oct.

Com. Raven: max 9 Helderberg Hawkwatch ALBA 13 Sep.

Horned Lark: max 200 Kinderhook COLU 15 Nov; Northumberland SARA 19 Nov; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 24 Nov.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 10 CF 8 Oct.

Tree Swallow: max 1060 New Baltimore GREE 18 Sep.

Bank Swallow: last VFNHP 12 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last W Coxsackie GREE 1 Sep.

Barn Swallow: last Blockhouse P SARA 2 Oct.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 14 APBP 6 Oct.

Brown Creeper: max 4 Bolton WARR 29 Sep.

House Wren: last Overmountain Cons Area COLU; Ann Lee Pd ALBA 13 Oct.

Winter Wren: max 2 Fox Preserve ALBA 4 Oct; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 8 Oct; RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 27 Nov.

Marsh Wren: max 5 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 23 Sep.

Carolina Wren: max 6 Henry Hudson P ALBA 8 Oct; RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 9 Oct.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Coveville SARA 5 Oct.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15 Corning Riverfront P ALBA 22 Oct.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Selkirk ALBA 7 Sep.

E. Bluebird: max 25 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 30 Sep; Round L Preserve SARA 4 Oct.

Veery: last Kingsbury WASH 8 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: last Malta SARA 27 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 4 Malta Tech P SARA 12 Oct; Indian Kill NP SCHE 23 Oct.

Wood Thrush: last Palenville GREE 9 Oct.

Gray Catbird: max 36 FR 15 Sep.

Brown Thrasher: last Clermont SP COLU 14 Oct.
N. Mockingbird: max 9 Coxsackie GREE 1 Sep.
Bohemian Waxwing: 7 Hague WARR 20 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 210 Galway SARA 5 Nov.
Am. Pipit: max 43 Copake COLU 2 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: max 92 Summit SCH 29 Nov, irruption year.
Pine Grosbeak: Hague WARR 20 Nov.
Purple Finch: max 20 Catskill GREE 16 Oct
Com. Redpoll: arr Moreau SARA 28 Oct; max 7 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 18 Nov.
Red Crossbill: max 10 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 4 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: 7 nr Pleasant L FULT 5 Nov.
Pine Siskin: max 50 New Baltimore GREE 7 Nov.
Lapland Longspur: arr Catskill GREE 18 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 25 Oct.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: max 10 Garnsey P SARA 19 Sep.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr BMB 18 Oct; max 24 Niskayuna SCHE 30 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 32 Prattsville GREE 29 Sep.
Field Sparrow: max 20 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 30 Sep.
Vesper Sparrow: max 8 Coxsackie GREE 21 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: max 40 Overmountain Cons AREA 23 Sep.
LECONTE'S SPARROW: APBP 5 Oct (TW), pending review NYSARC, *intro*.
Fox Sparrow: arr VFNHP 18 Oct; BMB 18 Oct.
Song Sparrow: max 75 Glenville SCHE 21 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Garnsey P SARA 19 Sep.
Swamp Sparrow: max 14 Coveville SARA 27 Sep.
White-throated Sparrow: max 100 Glenville SCHE 21 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Johnsburg WARR 27 Sep; max 16 Putnam WASH 7 Oct; Fultonville MONT 24 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 85 Ft Miller WASH 22 Nov.

Bobolink: max 32 Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 1 Sep; last Livingston COLU 14 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: Oppenheim FULT 5 Sep; CCGP 10 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last 3 Hudson Crossing P SARA 3 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 1700 Wrights Loop SARA 7 Nov.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 500 Copake COLU 7 Nov; Fultonville MONT 20 Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: arr BMB 28 Sep; max 40 BMB 10 Nov.
Com. Grackle: max 600 White Creek WASH 27 Oct.
Ovenbird: last RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 9 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 23 Sep.
Blue-winged Warbler: last Jackson WASH 2 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last Fultonville MONT 10 Oct.
Tennessee Warbler: last Petersburgh RENS 21 Oct, late.
Orange-crowned Warbler: max 3 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 14 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last Overmountain Cons Area COLU 13 Oct.
Mourning Warbler: last Livingston COLU 2 Oct.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 20 Palenville GREE 14 Sep.
Am. Redstart: max 9 Buckingham Pd ALBA 9 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: last Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 6 Oct.
N. Parula: last Woodlawn Preserve SCHE; Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH; Hague WARR 7 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last New Scotland ALBA 14 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 6 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last Overmountain Cons Area COLU 23 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last Fultonville MONT 24 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Hillsdale COLU 2 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: last Copake COLU 30 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 14 Oct.
Palm Warbler: last 2 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 25 Oct.

Pine Warbler: last 2 New Forge SF COLU 11 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 40 Hillsdale COLU 17 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: last Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 30 Sep.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last Glenville SCHE 21 Oct.

Canada Warbler: last Summit SCHO 19 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last Fultonville MONT 24

Sep.

Scarlet Tanager: last FR 3 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Elka P GREE 10 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 7 Oct.

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REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The fall season was a series of ups and downs weather wise. September had a high of 93°F on the 9th and a low of 43° on the 30th; overall the month was 0.4° below normal. Precipitation was close to normal with 5.62", 0.74" above normal. October was somewhat cooler, with a high of 81° on the 10th and a low of 28° on the 26th, 1.6° below normal for the month. Precipitation was 3.4", 1.07" below normal. November had a high of 69° on the 2nd and a low of 6° on the 23rd, and the month's average was 6.7° below normal. Precipitation was 7.55", a significant 4.08" above normal. Much of the period experienced intense winds from the southwest, altering some migration patterns in our Region. Rusty Blackbirds, for example, were barely reported, sticking much closer to the coast throughout migration, seemingly pushed there by the wind.

Following two exciting seasons with some exceptional birds, fall was rather quiet. Cackling Geese came on the scene in late October and November. They are being reported much more frequently and reliably with an increase in birders experienced with the species. Sullivan County had its first long-staying individual with a cooperative bird that remained for nine days at the Bashakill State Wildlife Management Area. A Eurasian Wigeon made a brief appearance at Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge on 19 November. Clapper Rails lingered well into the season with at least two remaining into November at Marshlands Conservancy. Sandhill Cranes continued their increase in the area, seen many times throughout the period.

A Little Blue Heron was found by Bill Fiero in late August at Stewart Forest State Park and continued through the 13th of September. Sticking with waders, a Cattle Egret was found at Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge on 28 October by Matt Zeitler. It continued through 13 November.

There was one report of Snowy Owl during the period. The bird was found by Barbara Mansell at Clinton's Corners in Dutchess County and remained for four days, being seen by many observers.

The much anticipated “Winter Finch Irruption” got started in late October and November with Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak showing up Region-wide in decent numbers.

A Yellow-breasted Chat found at the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge by Tom Burke and Gail Benson 30 September lingered only through the following morning. Connecticut Warblers were scarce this season with only two reported, one at Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge on 29 September and another on Clove Valley Road in Ulster County. Orange-crowned Warblers were well represented this fall with at least three in Sullivan County, one in Ulster and two in Westchester County.

Dickcissels were well represented too, with at least six reported around the Region.

CONTRIBUTORS

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CHESTNUT RIDGE HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	13 Sep	9	5 Oct	86
Turkey Vulture	4 Sep	403	20 Oct	3414
Osprey	1 Sep	41	15 Sep	314
Golden Eagle	20 Oct	1	20 Oct	3
No. Harrier	7 Sep	8	29 Oct	103
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6 Sep	140	14 Oct	1932
Cooper's Hawk	1 Sep	37	10 Oct	346
No. Goshawk	26 Oct	1	26 Oct	2
Bald Eagle	1 Sep	13	15 Sep	159
Red-shouldered Hawk	5 Sep	45	18 Nov	272
Broad-winged Hawk	1 Sep	2389	22 Sep	4278
Red-tailed Hawk	1 Sep	43	26 Oct	454
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0
Am. Kestrel	1 Sep	72	15 Sep	446
Merlin	6 Sep	6	18 Oct	84
Peregrine Falcon	5 Sep	4	29 Sep	27
Unidentified				151
Total including unidentified:				12,071

HOOK MOUNTAIN HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	27 Sep	16	7 Oct	127
Turkey Vulture	29 Sep	158	22 Oct	780
Osprey	31 Aug	8	12 Oct	166
Golden Eagle	18 Oct	3	25 Oct	8
No. Harrier	7 Sep	8	12 Oct	112
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9 Sep	235	5 Oct	2337
Cooper's Hawk	4 Sep	36	5 Oct	204
No. Goshawk	4 Nov	2	4 Nov	5
Bald Eagle	31 Aug	7	13 Oct	159
Red-shouldered Hawk	22 Sep	78	26 Oct	439
Broad-winged Hawk	8 Sep	1079	22 Sep	3279
Red-tailed Hawk	31 Aug	24	25 Oct	200
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0
Am. Kestrel	1 Sep	19	19 Sep	217
Merlin	4 Sep	8	19 Sep	94
Peregrine Falcon	13 Sep	5	23 Oct	37
Unidentified				3
Total including unidentified:				8,167

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA; **CPP** – Croton Pt P; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; **EMLH** – Esopus Meadows Light House; **FPNC** – Forsythe P and Nature Center; **GL** – Glenmere L; **GV** – Great Vly WMA; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail; **KP** – Kingston Pt; **LM** – Liberty Marsh; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy; **MP** – Morningside P; **MPHW** – Mount Peter Hawk Watch; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills SP; **PP** – Piermont Pier; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road; **WRNWR** – Wallkill River NWR.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 250 SGNWR 18 Nov (CSp); 850 OCBDR 18 Nov (MZe); 19 CPP 22 Nov (MRI).

Brant: 120 Hudson Highlands SP 5 Oct (KBa); 250 MPHW 13 Oct (MZe); 66 BSWMA 15 Oct (JHaa); 95 KP 16 Oct (DWe); 600 Hudson Valley Rail Trail 16 Oct (CShe); max 300 EGR 28 Nov (NG).

Cackling Goose: WRNWR 21 Oct (LScr); SHSR 4 Nov (KA); 4 Lavalle Road, Amenia 23 Oct (CP, HT); BSWMA 13-21 Nov (JHaa, SBa, KMi, PD); Blue Chip Farms 24 Nov (PSch, DF, FM), *intro*.

Eurasian Wigeon: WRNWR 19 Nov (LScr, KD), *intro*.

Canvasback: 5 MP 20 Oct (JHaa, KMi, DB); 15 CPP 4 Nov (ASw, DvZ); Chadwick L 20 Nov (BNo); 7 EMLH 20 Nov (MD); 30 CPP 30 Nov (KR).

Redhead: Wickham L 30 Oct (MZe); 2 Chadwick L 20-22 Nov (BNo).

Surf Scoter: 2 Yankee L 23 Oct- 5 Nov (JHaa, SBa, PD); Wickham L 24 Oct (MZe); 2 EMLH 24-25 Nov (MD, mob).

White-winged Scoter: 5 Wickham L 9 Oct (LScr); Kensico Res 1 Nov (NG); EMLH 20-24 Nov (MD, mob); KP 24-25 Nov (PD, mob); max 4 EGR 24 Nov (GB).

Long-tailed Duck: 2 KP 20 Oct (FM, DF); Sylvan L 29 Oct (CP); 24 Oct EGR (GB); max 7 OMRLMSP 10 Nov (CP); 4 Neversink Res 4 Nov (JHaa, KMi); 16 Ashokan Res 10 Nov (NM); Orange L 22 Nov (BNo).

Ruffed Grouse: 3 Slide Mt. 20 Sep (MJan); Gardiner 20 Sep (LVV); Sam's Pt. 22 Oct (MC, MBow); Cooper L 28 Oct (FM); Muhlig Rd. 15 Nov (PD); Minnewaska SP 27 Nov (NM).

Horned Grebe: Swan L 20 Oct (JHaa); Yankee L 23-27 Oct (JHaa); Wickham L 24 Oct (MZe); Walton L 2 Nov (JS); 2 PP 10 Nov

(CCo); Kiamesha L 17 Nov (JHaa); EMLH 18 Nov (JY); 2 EGR 23 Nov (GB, TBu); Ashokan Promenade 25 Nov (JU, mob).

Red-necked Grebe: Swan L 20 Oct-4 Nov (JHaa, KMi, SBa, DB); max 2 Kensico Res 21 Oct- 8 Nov (NG); Wanaksink L 22 Oct (JHaa, SBa); 2 Ashokan Res 5 Nov (NM); SHSR 11 Nov (KA); Washington L 20 Nov (BNo); Lake Tappan 22 Nov (FD); Neversink Res 20 Nov (PD).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 BSWMA 6 Sep (JHaa); Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary 23 Sep (GLE); CPP 14 Oct (SRap); Minnewaska SP 16 Oct (SBa, KA, CSp); RSP 26 Oct (VH).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Angel Fly Preserve 6 Sep (BNI); WRNWR 15 Sep (KA); CPP 20 Oct (DP); Dennings Pt. 22 Oct (SRO).

Common Nighthawk: 23 OCBDR 1 Sep (GB); 16 SGNWR 1 Sep (JJ); 9 MC 4 Sep (GB); 2 Peach Hill P 9 Sep (CCha); 2 Gibson Hill Rd 15 Sep (JS); 6 Harcourt Sanctuary 10 Oct (DWe).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: BSWMA 1 Oct (SBa).

RAILS - LARIDS

Clapper Rail: 2 MC 4 Sep (GB); 2 MC 10 Oct (GB, TBu); 2 MC 1 Nov (GB), *intro*.

Virginia Rail: GV 5 Sep (PSch); BSWMA 27 Sep (KMi); Thompson Pd Preserve 29 Nov (SRO).

Common Gallinule: BSWMA 1 Oct (JHaa); WRNWR 7 Oct (MZe); Pine Hill Rd. 14 Oct (KMi, DB); Constitution Marsh 1 Nov (CR, LG); SHSR 4 Nov (AP).

Sandhill Crane: 2 Pine Island Turf Nursery 12 Sep (KMcD); 2 WRNWR 21 Sep (KMi); 2 WRNWR 2 Oct (LScr); 12 WRNWR 10 Nov (LScr); 6 Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch 18 Nov (TJ), *intro*.

Black-bellied Plover: OCBDR 2 Sep (FP); PP 14 Sep (LP); Sheffield Hill Rd Amenia 28 Sep

(CP, BM); 2 Ashokan Res 20 Oct (PSch, JP); GV 21 Oct (PSch, SRo).

American Golden-Plover: WRNWR 7 Sep (MOf); max 10 OCBDR 23 Sep (NH).

Semipalmated Plover: MP 23 Sep (PD, JHaa); 3 Ulster County Fair Grounds 2 Sep (GF); 3 PP 4 Sep (EE); 2 GL 4 Sep (KA); OCBDR 5 Sep (EZ); 3 WRNWR 9 Sep (MD); 8 EGR 11 Sep (GB, TBu); AP 14 Sep (NH).

Sanderling: 2 PP 27 Sep (KR); OCBDR 6 Oct and 27 Oct (MZe); GV 22 Oct (CSp).

Dunlin: CPP 7 Oct (ASw); 8 EGR 18 Oct (GB); SGNWR 19 Oct (CSp); 5 MP 18 Oct (JHaa, PD); AP 19 Oct (SBa, JHaa, KMi); 2 PP 20 Oct (TSt); 3 GL 21 Oct (MZe); 18 Glenmere L 28 Oct (MZe, KL).

Baird's Sandpiper: AP 3-6 Sep (PD, JHaa, SBa, KMi, NH, MZe); max 3 OCBDR 3-9 Sep (WT, GB, mob); GV 9 Sep (PSch, RM).

White-rumped Sandpiper: MP 11 Sep (JHaa, KMi, PD); max 2 GV 19-22 Oct (PSch, mob); Ashokan Res Spillway Dam 22 Oct (FM); Malden Mini P 25 Oct (WT); Fording Place Rd 26 Oct (PSch); max 3 GL 27-28 Oct (MZe).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max 6 OCBDR 1-15 Sep (LScr, GB, JB, KMcD, FP, KMi, mob).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 11 OCBDR 8 Sep-19 Oct (MZe, FP, mob); max 5 Sullivan County Community College 11-29 Oct (PD, JHaa, KMi); max 10 CPP (ASw, DvZ, mob); max 7 Strever Farm 9-28 Oct (BM, CP, mob); max 25 GV 8 Sep-22 Oct (PSch, CSp, mob); max 3 Lake Carmel 26-31 Oct (AMA); max 4 Resnick Rd 16 Oct-4 Nov (JHaa, KMi); max 2 WRNWR 9 Sep (NH).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 6 GV 5 Sep-22 Oct (PSch, RM, CSp); max 4 MP 7 Sep-18 Oct (JHaa, PD, KMi); max 3 EGR 7-21 Sep (GB, TBu); max 7 CPP 19-22 Oct (BStr, SRap, MStr); 5 PP 3 Sep (CCo); 3 WRNWR 4-8 Sep (EZ, DSpan).

Short-billed Dowitcher: MP 11 Sep (JHaa, KMi); WRNWR 9 Sep (MD).

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Swan L 20-30 Oct (JHaa, KMi, SBa); max 6 Ashokan Res 21-22 Oct (RM); 2 KP 17 Nov (FM, DF); 4 CPP 4 Nov (ASw, DvZ); PP 30 Oct (VH); 2 GL 21 Oct (KA); OCBDR 10 Nov (MZe, LScr).

Caspian Tern: max 3 PP 26 Sep-7 Oct (EE, KR, mob); 2 Yorktown Heights Rail Trail 8 Sep (BNi, TJ).

LOONS - PARROTS

Red-throated Loon: max 45 EGR 22 Oct-28 Nov (GB, mob); CPP 28 Oct (KMcGr);

Browns Pond 20 Nov (BNo); Washington L 25 Nov (BNo).

American Bittern: SGNWR 2 Sep (K.Fung); Berea Rd 11 Sep (BF); WRNWR 16 Sep-11 Nov (LScr, GB, ML, MZe, MOf); max 2 BSWMA 16 Sep-8 Oct (PD, JHaa, KMi, SBa); RSP 29 Sep (LMan); SGNWR 19 Oct (CSp); MC 2 Nov (GB, TBu); Congers L Memorial P 4 Nov (CCo); SGNWR 24 Nov (MC, CChA).

Little Blue Heron: SFSP 1-13 Sep (BF, KA, KMcD, mob); WRNWR 9 Sep (MD), *intro*.

Cattle Egret: WRNWR 28 Oct-13 Nov (MZe, ML, LScr, JHaa, mob), *intro*.

Black Vulture to Osprey: see Chestnut Ridge and Hook Mt Hawkwatch charts above.

Golden Eagle: 2 Slide Mt 10 Oct (LD); MC 24 Oct (GB); MPHW 30 Oct (JCI); 2 I-84 Overlook HW (AA, LA); Mohonk Preserve HW 31 Oct (ZNS); see also Chestnut Ridge and Hook Mt Hawkwatch charts above.

Northern Harrier to Cooper's Hawk: see Chestnut Ridge and Hook Mt Hawkwatch charts above.

Northern Goshawk: Slide Mt 17 Sep (BSw); MPHW 17 Oct (AA, LA); see also Chestnut Ridge and Hook Mt Hawkwatch charts above.

Bald Eagle to Red-tailed Hawk: see Chestnut Ridge and Hook Mt Hawkwatch charts above.

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 Turkey Mt P 23 Nov (SH); OCBDR 24 Nov (KA); Tanzman Rd 30 Nov (JHaa, SBa); max 3 SGNWR 31 Oct-30 Nov (SWa, DWe, PSch, mob).

American Kestrel to Peregrine Falcon: see Chestnut Ridge and Hook Mt Hawkwatch charts above.

Snowy Owl: Clinton's Corners Dutchess Co. 31 Oct-3 Nov (BM, CP, mob), *intro*.

Short-eared Owl: max 7 SGNWR 17 Oct-30 Nov (CSp, mob); CPP 28 Oct (SRap, LTr).

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 3 1 Sep-18 Nov (GL, DB, mob); 2 Catskill P 30 Sep (DO, DSpe); Rondout Res 9-10 Nov (JHaa, PD); max 5 VanNostrand Swamp 23 Nov (DB, SSi).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: OCBDR 1 Sep (SBa); GL 3 Sep (KA); Aden Rd 14 Sep (SSu); WRNWR 15 Sep (LScr, KA).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: High Banks Preserve 9 Sep (FM); Bear Mt 15 Sep (DL); MPHW 15 Sep (LScr, MZe, RHan); Peach Hill 15 Sep (AL); Crawford Walking Trail 19 Sep (TBe); WRNWR 19 Sep (AMA); MC 2 Oct (GB).

Philadelphia Vireo: BSWMA 8 Sep (JHaa, PD); High Banks Preserve 9 Sep (DF, FM, WT); SFSP 14 Sep (TBe); 2 Kukuk Lane 23 Sep (WT, MD); SHSR 24 Sep (KA); WRNWR 16 Oct (LScr).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 2 Kukuk Lane 15 Sep (MD); Yankee L 28 Sep (JHaa); RSP 4 Oct (MGro); Whip-poor-will P 7 Oct (AMi, S. Miller); Goose Pond South 8 Oct (KA); McDonald Rd 9 Oct (JHaa, SBa); BSWMA 17 Oct (JHaa, PD); Wonder L SP 24 Oct (VH).

Swainson's Thrush: MPHW 8 Sep (MZe); max 3 BSWMA 9 Sep-26 Oct (SBa, JHaa, mob); MC 15-17 Sep (MSt, GB, SLes); SHSR 23 Sep (KA); 3 Mohonk Preserve 30 Sep (GF, CK); Constitution Marsh 9 Oct (KBa); RSP 19 Oct (ASw); FPNC 10 Oct (MD).

American Pipit: 16 Andrew Haight Rd 4 Oct (JA); 13 RLSP 25 Oct (AW); 8 Harbour I Preserve 27 Oct (GB); 40 CPP 28 Oct (KBa, LTr, PC); 3 North Highland P 29 Oct (KBa, RB); 90 OCBDR 27 Oct (MZe); 40 BSWMA 16 Nov (JHaa, SBa); 15 Kensico Res 16 Nov (NG); 8 Fording Place Rd 17 Nov (FM, DF, RM).

Evening Grosbeak: 4 Hunt-Parker Sanctuary 11 Nov (SWr, BStr, mob); max 6 FPNC 17 Nov (DH, PSch, WT, JP); 15 Home 18 Nov (LMar); 10 BSWMA 21 Nov (SBa); 5 Brothers Rd 30 Nov (CP); 18 Tanzman Rd 30 Nov (JHaa, SBa), *intro*.

Purple Finch: 3 RSP 17 Sep (ASw, mob); 7 FPNC 18 Sep (MD); 5 RLSP 17 Oct (AW); 5 Constitution Marsh 24 Sep (KB); 13 CPP 6 Oct (KB, mob); max 38 BSWMA 15 Oct (SBa, mob); max 3 Brothers Rd 28 Oct (CP); 15 MC 31 Oct (GB); 4 Harcourt Sanctuary 10 Nov (DWe).

Pine Siskin: 8 MC 18 Oct (GB); max 240 27 Oct (SBa, JHaa, mob); 40 Mohonk Mt House 28 Oct (GL); 15 Kensico Res 2 Nov (NG); 26 RSP 15 Nov (HS); 7 Brothers Rd 17 Nov (CP), *intro*.

Lapland Longspur: max 2 OCBDR 10 Oct-18 Nov (MZe, LScr, KMi, FP); CPP 17 Nov (CR, LTr, GB, mob); max 4 Beechwoods 17-19 Nov (JHaa, SBa, PD, KMi, DB); Hillview Res 23 Nov (NG).

Snow Bunting: 14 Catskill P 28 Oct (RB); 30 Neversink Res 16 Nov (SSu); max 28 EGR 16-24 Nov (GB, mob); 20 CPP 17 Nov (GB, KMcGr); 40 Ashokan Res 18 Nov (CSp); max

25 Beechwoods 17-19 Nov (JHaa, PD, SBa); 2 Rockefeller Lane 21 Nov (ASw, DvZ, SRO); max 19 Stringham P 21-22 Nov (AMa, DK, SI).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Vesper Sparrow: 2 OCBDR 1 Sep (MZe); max 5 BSWMA 18-28 Oct (JHaa, SBa, KMi, PD, KMcD); 5 SGNWR 21 Oct (MRI); max 6 CPP 17-30 Oct (ASw, BNo, KB, mob); 3 Clements Rd 25 Oct (JHaa); 5 RSP 26 Oct (VH).

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 2 BSWMA 19 Sep-8 Oct (PD, JHaa, SBa, AL); 2 Harcourt Sanctuary 20 Oct (DWe); 2 Goose Pd Mt SP 8-9 Oct (KA, BNo, AL); CPP 22 Oct (ASw, mob); 3 MC 31 Oct (DJ, GB).

Yellow-breasted Chat: WRNWR 30 Sep-1 Oct (GB, KMi), *intro*.

Rusty Blackbird: 2 SFSP 29 Oct (BF); 3 SHSR 6-11 Nov (KA); 2 BSWMA 8 Nov (KMi, SBa); 35 WRNWR 4 Nov (AL), *intro*.

Tennessee Warbler: Depot Hill 5-7 Sep (CP); 2 FPNC 20 Sep (MD); 3 BSWMA 23 Sep (KMi); 2 RSP 8 Oct (ASw, mob); MC 29 Oct (ASw, BNo, mob).

Connecticut Warbler: WRNWR 20 Sep (KA); Clove Valley Rd 6 Sep (ZNS), *intro*.

Hooded Warbler: Minnewaska SP 4 Sep (SBa, KA); 2 SFSP 8 Sep (GB); BSWMA 19 Sep (KMi).

Cape May Warbler: BSWMA 8 Sep (SBa); Yorktown Heights Rail Trail 8 Sep (BNi, TJ); WRNWR 23 Sep (LScr, MZe); MC 1 Oct (GB); SHSR 1 Oct (KA); 3 Constitution Marsh 3 Oct (KB); 2 RSP 8 Oct (ASw, mob); CPP 9 Oct (ASw). Widespread reports this season.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Clements Rd 11 Oct (JHaa); Rt 28 Kingston 11 Oct (MSche); McDonald Rd 17 Oct (PD); BSWMA 24-28 Oct (JHaa, NH); 2 MC 12 Nov (GB), *intro*.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Depot Hill 4 Sep (CP); max 4 BSWMA 16 Sep (S. Altman, JHaa, SBa); Merriwald Club & L 17 Oct (NH); RSP 19 Sep (EE); SHSR 24 Sep (KA); RLSP 4 Oct (SBa).

Dickcissel: WRNWR 17 Sep (LScr); FPNC 20 Sep (MD); CPP 28 Oct (MSt, BSt); SGNWR 29 Sep (SWa); Catskill P 30 Sep (PSch, CSp, mob); Carmel High School 3 Oct (AMa), *intro*.

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REGION 10 - MARINE

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It was a cold and wet fall, a departure from the warm and dry conditions of recent years. But it was also more conducive to good birding results than any recent year. A series of cold fronts followed by northwesterly winds produced a number of good migratory flights, especially in mid to late October. Many irruptive species were on the move in large numbers too. A respectable total of 309 species was recorded in the Region, excluding exotics and introduced, non-established birds.

September's average temperature was 70.7°F at Central Park, 2.7° above normal. September was wetter than normal. 6.19" of rain fell at Central Park, about 2" above normal. October was closer to normal. For example, the average temperature at JFK Airport was 0.9° above normal at 57.9°, and rainfall was 0.3" below normal at 3.32". But rainfall was about 2" above normal at Islip. November was much more extreme. Precipitation was way above normal. A record 8.42" of liquid equivalent was recorded at Islip, 4.75" above normal. Over 4" of snow fell throughout the Region on 15 November. The 6.4" in Central Park was the second snowiest November day on record and the most so early in the season. Not surprisingly, November was cold, too. The average temperature at Central Park was 44.4°, 3.3° below normal.

It was a good year at the Fire Island Hawk Watch, in marked contrast to recent years. 4,054 total hawks were counted, 31% above the average of the past 10 years. All-time seasonal maxima were recorded for Cooper's Hawk (84) and Bald Eagle (14). A hopeful sign, after years of poor counts in part due to population losses, was that numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawk and American Kestrel were up. Counts of 480 were tallied for the former, 49% above the average of the previous 20 years, and 985 for the latter, 15% above. There were also notable counts of Northern Harrier (249) and Merlin (1,590). The only species counted below its 20-year average was Peregrine Falcon (-11%). Favorable weather conditions certainly contributed to the results. After a modest start through early October, there were six big flight days in mid-late October topped by 432 total hawks on 12 October and 426 on 24 October.

Birders in Region 10 enjoyed a much better winter finch flight this season than any in the past decade or so, though not necessarily by historical standards. Most remarkable was the record-setting irruption of Purple Finches. They were present throughout the season and virtually ubiquitous for most of it. The irruption peaked in late October culminating with a remarkable 2,216 counted on the morning of 30 October at Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk County. There was a sizable irruption of Pine Siskins, too, though not record-setting. The season also saw a few **Evening Grosbeaks**, with individuals sticking in spots

long enough to afford birders good viewing opportunities. This species has been almost completely absent from Region 10 for many years. There were a few Red Crossbills, mostly seen briefly along the barrier beaches. There were two Common Redpoll reports, and a lone **Bohemian Waxwing**. Among the more common irruptive species numbers were fairly impressive. Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread in good numbers, with some individual counts over 100. 71 Red-bellied Woodpeckers were counted at Robert Moses State Park on 14 October.

Numbers of migrating “grasspipers” were perhaps at an all-time low in the Region. Among a small number of reports, the maximum of Buff-breasted Sandpipers was three and of American Golden-Plovers only two. An Upland Sandpiper in migration at Robert Moses State Park on 19 September was a surprise, this species having become very rare in Region 10. Numbers of other shorebirds were generally very low. For example, the maximum of Semipalmated Sandpipers was only 600 and of Short-billed Dowitcher a paltry 85. It is possible that the high water levels at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge’s East Pond affected these numbers somewhat, either by discouraging the birds, or the birders from visiting the north end.

The few pelagic trips this fall were less productive than in recent years, the most notable report a very late Sooty Shearwater offshore on 4 November. However, there were some very good pelagic bird sightings from shore, including a Northern Fulmar at Riis Park, Queens, and three separate reports of Pomarine Jaeger. Both of these species were seen when stormy weather produced a widespread seabird spectacle on 25 September.

The early-fall passage of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, mostly immature birds, along the barrier beaches is being well documented. The maximum count was 107 at Robert Moses State Park on 10 September. This species becomes quite rare here through the winter.

Despite the cold temperatures, 20 species of warblers were recorded in the Region well into November, most of them substantially later than their normal departure dates.

As usual, there were a number of notable rarities in the Region. A **Barnacle Goose** was in Riverhead, Suffolk County from 24 November through the season. A **Brown Booby** was reported from the Verrazano Narrows on 2 October (see article elsewhere in this issue), and an adult **White Ibis** was reported at Tobay Beach, Nassau County on 16 September. A **Mississippi Kite** was spotted at Clove Lakes Park, Staten Island on 17 September. A juvenile **Golden Eagle** was seen at Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan on 21 October. A juvenile **Purple Gallinule** was discovered at the lake in Prospect Park, Brooklyn on 19 October, where it stayed until the 22nd. A **Sandhill Crane** was a flyover at Inwood Hill Park on 16 October. A few **Pileated Woodpeckers** are established in Staten Island, though still very rare on Long Island. There was an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Heckscher State Park, Suffolk County from 31 October-2 November. A **Gray Kingbird** was a very nice surprise for a few birders who

were in the right place at the right time at Jones Beach West End on 10 November. It was gone within an hour. There were several reports of **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**. One, at Deep Hollow, Montauk, Suffolk County was seen by many on 20-21 October. This was probably the same bird that was seen there again on 4 November. Another one, on 10 November at Point Lookout, Nassau County, was seen only briefly, coinciding with the excitement of the Gray Kingbird across Jones Inlet. A **Northern Wheatear** was seen by many at Heckscher State Park on 28 October and remained through at least the 30th. A **Varied Thrush** was a window strike victim on 4 November at 57th Street and Central Park West, Manhattan. It was taken to rehab, fate unknown. The above-mentioned **Bohemian Waxwing** was seen briefly at Crab Meadow Beach, Northport, Suffolk County on 29 November. A **Harris's Sparrow** was seen at Central Park on 4 November.

The author wishes to thank Bill Ostrander, who has taken on the task of organizing eBird data into a format usable for compiling Kingbird Regional reports. The use of this data has become indispensable for providing an accurate picture of the avifauna of Region 10.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APEC – Alley Pd Environmental Center, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BPP** – Baisley Pd P, QUEE; **BPT** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BRY** – Bryant P, NEWY; **CB** – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CHP** – Conference House P, RICH; **CIC** – Coney I Creek/P, KING; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CRSP** – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **Ed** – Sod fields on Edwards Ave north of Route 25, Riverhead, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FIHW** – Fire Island Hawk Watch, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **FWP** – Ft. Washington P, NEWY; **GBP** – Goethal's Bridge Pd, RICH; **GBy** – Gravesend Bay, KING; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **Gtree** – Greentree Estate, Manhasset, NASS; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HP** – Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **Mass** – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; **MF** – Miller Field, RICH; **MLUA** – Mt. Loretto Unique Area, RICH; **MNSA** – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **NYBG** – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Patchogue L, Patchogue, SUFF; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RBA** – NY Rare Bird Alert, **RI** – Randall's I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Jacob Riis P, QUEE; **Rt 105** – Sod fields south of Sound Av between Route 105 and Doctor's Path, Riverhead, SUFF; **Sag** – Sagaponack Pd/Inlet, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP/Old Inlet, SUFF; **SPP** – Southards Pd P, West Babylon, SUFF; **SMSP** – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; **TP** – Timber Pt Golf Course, Great River, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **VSh** – Venetian Shores P, Lindenhurst, SUFF; **VSSP** – Valley Stream SP, NASS; **WPP** – Wolfe's Pd P, RICH.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose: 3 Rt 105 24-25 Nov (SSM, PJL, JSe).

"Black" Brant: FT 19-22 Nov (SN, AB).

BARNACLE GOOSE: Rt 105 24 Nov thru (SSM, PJL, mob).

Cackling Goose: Bay CP, East Rockaway, NASS 23 Sep (RBA), early; MF 18 Oct (RV); 3 MF 24 Nov (RV); Rt 105 24 Nov (SSM, PJL).

Mute Swan: max 156 MB 24 Nov (AnW).

Tundra Swan: 2 Georgica, SUFF 22-24 Nov (JRo).

Wood Duck: max 80 HLSP 18 Oct (mob), large number.

Eurasian Wigeon: Marine Park, KING 19 Oct-18 Nov (RBA); Blydenburgh CP, Smithtown, SUFF 18 Nov (RBA); JBWR 21 Nov (RBA); Avon L, Amityville, SUFF 23 Nov-thru (RBA); CR 27-28 Nov (ACi).

Canvasback: appx 10 reps; max 16, Tung Ting Pd, Centerport, SUFF 21 Nov (M. Jensen).

Redhead: max 65 Baisley Pd P, QUEE 23 Nov (R. Evon).

Greater Scaup: max 130 City I, BRON 24 Nov (RAR, MB), few.

King Eider: Shinn 2-6 Sep (KC, S. Newbert, S. Stuart).

Com. Eider: max 300 MP 16 Nov (M. Harvey), few relative to recent years.

Harlequin Duck: Orient Pt, SUFF 19 Oct (RBA); RP 27 Oct (SSI, DG, PP Paul); Fisher's I, Suff 27 Oct (RBA); Pt. Lookout, NASS 1 Nov (RBA); 2 Pt Lookout 7 Nov (SyS, JGi); max 5 Pt Lookout 10 Nov (JGi).

Com. Merganser: appx 15 reps; max 12 PBP 22-23 Nov (RAR).

Ruddy Duck: max 1022 Hendrix Cr, KING 24 Nov (TPR).

N. Bobwhite: 3 distinct reps, all likely released.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Still present at scattered locs such as KP and Edgemere, QUEE.

Red-necked Grebe: PB 1 Nov (RBA); 2 MLUA 4 Nov (HF, mob); 2 FT 11 Nov (DG, SBA, mob).

Com. Nighthawk: 306 Setauket, SUFF 11 Sep (JT, et al.); 114 Setauket 18 Sep (JT, et al.);

Chuck-will's-widow: CP 22 Sep (RBA), very rare in fall.

E. Whip-poor-will: Edgewood Preserve, SUFF 13-15 Sep (TS, PMo).

Chimney Swift: 4 Heartland Village, RICH 2 Nov (DE), late.

RAILS – LARIDS

Virginia Rail: PP 19 Sep (RB, mob).

Sora: JBWR 8-13 Sep (mob); BRY 14 Sep (AD); 2 JBWR 16 Sep (RT, mob);

PURPLE GALLINULE: juv PP 19-22 Oct (SSI, mob).

Com. Gallinule: Mass 21 Sep (JOS).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): IHP 16 Oct (RBA).

Am. Avocet: not reported.

Am. Oystercatcher: max 500 JBWE 15 Sep (K. Topping).

Am. Golden-Plover: very few; max 2: Eastport, SUFF 1-2 Sep (JGI, ES); MF 13 Sep (ACi); HSP 13 Sep (PGL); 2 MB 21 Sep (KF, SF); MF 21 Sep (T. Gabe); MF 23 Sep (RV); HSP 21 Sep (KF, SF); FT 22 Sep (MB); 2 MF 3 Oct (JRG).

Upland Sandpiper: RMSP 19 Sep (SSM).

Whimbrel: BPt 7-8 Sep (PPaul, MB); 6 MF 10 Sep (ACi); 3 MF 11 Sep (EJ); 2 MF 14 Sep (HF); 4 Jamaica Bay, QUEE 16 Sep (RBA); 4 FT 30 Sep (CCo).

Hudsonian Godwit: More than recent years: 2 JBWR 2-9 Sep (DF, mob); 3 JBWR 8 Sep (RV); 2 JBWE 10-14 Sep (TH, mob); JBWR 13 Sep (RV); Eastport 16 Sep (ES); 2 Eastport 21 Sep (KF, SF); MB 21 Sep (KF, SF); 3 JBWR 24 Sep (RV); 2-3 MF 19-22 Oct (RV, mob); Sag 27 Oct (AnW).

Marbled Godwit: 2 CCP 1 Sep (KC); JBWR 1-3 Sep (KM, mob); JBWE 11-12 Sep (TH, mob); CCP 16 Sep (MSch); 5 JBWE 20 Sep (TWB); 6 JBWE 7 Oct (RPx); max 7 JBWE 19 Oct (JGi); 4-5 JBWE thru 9 Nov, 3 thru 18 Nov, 2 thru 30 Nov.

Red Knot: max 103 Pt Lookout 13 Oct (TWB, GB).

Stilt Sandpiper: max 20 JBWR 3 Sep (E. Gaillard); HSP 13 Sep (PGL), usual loc.

Baird's Sandpiper: Fewer than 10 reps; 2 Riverhead 3 Sep (mob); 1-2 BPt 21-28 Sep (RBA, PP Paul); 3 BPt 29 Sep (PPaul).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: few; Riverhead 2-3 Sep (TH, AC); max 3 Riverhead 8 Sep (RA); JBWR 8 Sep (DF); HSP 13 Sep (PGL); 2 Eastport 16 Sep (ES).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 600 JBWR 2 Sep (DF), few; 16 GBP 2 Nov (SSM); 11 GBP 5 Nov (RV); 7 GBP 8 Nov (RV); late.

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 85 JBWR 3 Sep (TH), few.

Long-billed Dowitcher: JBWR 3 Sep (AB); JBWR 8 Sep (RV); 2 ad JBWR 24 Sep (RV); max 8 Santapogue Cr, W. Babylon, SUFF (R. Valente); 4 Santapogue Cr 18-25 Oct.

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 1-3 Sep (JR, MY).

Red-necked Phalarope: Sag 8 Sep (AnW); Fisher's I 27 Oct (RBA).

Pomarine Jaeger: MB 1 Sep (SSM); Great Gull I, SUFF 23 Sep (RBA); RMSP 26 Oct (RBA); very rare from shore.

Parasitic Jaeger: 5 CCP 1 Sep (KC); 3 MB 21 Sep (KF, SF); RMSP 25 Sep (SSM); 10 Sag 25 Sep (RBA); max 12 RMSP 26 Oct (SSM);

JBSP 28 Sep (SW); 10 RMSP 26 Oct (RBA); 8 RP 27 Oct (SSi, DG, PPaul); RMSP 15 Nov (SSM).

Razorbill: Orient Pt – New London Ferry, SUFF 20 Nov (MSf); SPCP 21 Nov (RBA).

Black-legged Kittiwake: juv FT 22 Sep (MB); Sag 25 Sep (RBA); 9 FT 13 Oct (RBA); 8 RMSP 26 Oct (RBA).

Bonaparte's Gull: juv RMSP 25 Sep (SSM); 600 RMSP 26 Oct (SSM); max 1000 RMSP 9 Nov (SSM).

Black-headed Gull: 1st win Sag 27 Oct (AnW); Old Field, SUFF 19 Nov (MSf), returning ad.

Little Gull: juv RMSP 15 Nov (SSM).

Iceland Gull: imm MB 26 Nov (EJ).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 107 RMSP 10 Sep (SSM); 43 JBWE 10 Sep (TH); 92 Old Inlet, Fire Island, SUFF 15 Sep (KC); 60 RMSP 25 Sep (SSM); 62 JBWE 25 Sep (SSM); 60 SPCP 25 Sep (RBA); 22 RMSP 27 Oct (SSM); large num; 7 JBWE 7 Nov (SyS, JGi); Arden Av., RICH 24 Nov thru (SIW), ad returning for 12th year.

Glaucous Gull: 1st cy PBP 23-25 Nov (RAR, MB).

Caspian Tern: 3 JBWR 3 Sep (TH); 2 GKP 3 Sep (ACi); 2 BPt 8 Sep (MB); 2 JBWR 13 Sep (RV); max 6 MB 15 Sep (JGI); JBWR 24 Sep (RV); 3 JBSP 28 Sep (SW); BPt 29 Sep (PPaul); 2 RP 27 Oct (SSi, DG, PPaul).

Black Tern: 6 CCP 1 Sep (KC); max 11 RMSP 7 Sep (DF); Gin B, Montauk, SUFF 27 Oct (AnW); 2 RP 27 Oct (SSi, DG, PPaul), late.

Com. Tern: 2 Montauk Inlet, SUFF 18 Nov (TM, SBi), late.

Royal Tern: 4 BPt 7 Sep (PPaul); 60 SPCP 25 Sep (RBA); 8 BPt 29 Sep (PPaul); 12 VSh 1 Oct (SyS, JGi); 18 MB 18 Oct (RBA); 44 RP 27 Oct (SSi, DG, PPaul); max 100 CCP 3 Nov (KC); last 21 Nov.

Black Skimmer: max 480 Nickerson B, NASS 9 Sep (DF).

LOONS - PARROTS

N Fulmar: RP 25 Sep (SSi, DG), very rare from shore.

Cory's Shearwater: Shin 1 Sep (KC); 50 CCP 1 Sep (KC); max 300 MB 2 Sep (SSM), large num; 12 1 mi off MP 17 Sep (OB); 2 Fort Pond Bay, Montauk, SUFF 17 Sep (OB); 2 MB 21 Sep (KF, SF); 10 RMSP 25 Sep (SSM); 72 Sag 25 Sep (RBA); 25 SPCP 25 Sep (RBA).

Sooty Shearwater: MB 3 Sep (SSM, PJL, PMo); Sag 25 Sep (DR), late; Brooklyn VI Pelagic Trip, NASS 4 Nov (BF, TS), very late.

Great Shearwater: 23 RMSP 25 Sep (KF); RP 25 Sep (SSi, DG); 3 Sag 25 Sep (RBA); 2 SPCP 25 Sep (RBA); JBSP 28 Sep (SW).

Manx Shearwater: Shin 1 Sep (KC); Fort Pond Bay 17 Sep (OB); RMSP 25 Sep (SSM); 4 Sag 25 Sep (DR).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 2 Brooklyn VI Pelagic Trip, SUFF 4 Nov (DG, *et al.*).

BROWN BOOBY: Verrazano Narrows 2 Oct (JRG!); see article this issue.

Double-crested Cormorant: 2958 RP 27 Oct (SSi, DG, PPaul), large number.

Am. Bittern: PP 21 Oct (RB); Gilgo B, SUFF 16 Nov (SA, RK).

Tricolored Heron: JBWE 15 Nov (RV), late.

Cattle Egret: JBSP 20 Oct (RBA); 4 Southold 28 Oct (JSe); 2 Cutchogue, SUFF 29 Oct (A. Ratay); 2 TP 2-3 Nov (KF); 2 Bellport, SUFF 4 Nov (LS); Pt Lookout 10 Nov (SW) 2 Wainscott, SUFF 10 Nov (JR).

WHITE IBIS: ad Tobay B, NASS 16 Sep (*fide* RPx).

Black Vulture: max 5 CP 23 Oct (SC, mob); 5 CR25 Oct (ACi).

Turkey Vulture: 41 Northville, SUFF 12 Oct (MLL); 54 Northville 13 Oct (MLL); large numbers for L.I.

Osprey: 496 FIHW (*fide* DP), 31% above 20-yr avg.

GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): juv IHP 21 Oct (RZ).

N. Harrier: 249 FIHW (*fide* DP), 8% above 20-yr avg.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 480 FIHW (*fide* DP), 49% above 20-yr avg.

Cooper's Hawk: 84 FIHW (*fide* DP), 126% above 20-yr avg, 37-year max.

N. Goshawk: imm PBP 10 Nov (MB), ph!; Tobay B 11 Nov (BF), ph.

Bald Eagle: 14 FIHW (*fide* DP), 37-year max.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: CLP 17 Sep (HF).

Red-shouldered Hawk: GTree 14 Oct (SP); FT 18 Oct (SW); rare on L.I.

Broad-winged Hawk: 329 IHP 22 Sep (NO), large num for R10; 5 FT 18 Oct (SW), rare on L.I.

Great Horned Owl: 6 GTree 14 Oct (SP).

Snowy Owl: JBWE 22 Nov thru (mob).

Barred Owl: 2 CP 29 Sep thru (mob).

Long-eared Owl: CP 1 Nov thru (mob).

Short-eared Owl: Randall's I, NEWY 22 Nov (DBa), unusual loc.

N. Saw-whet Owl: CP 4 Nov thru (mob).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Appx 12 reps incl several of two birds.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 26 RMSP 30 Sep (*fide* SSM); 71 RMSP 14 Oct (SSM, mob); large numbers; unusual barrier beach flight.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 15 GTree 14 Oct (SP), large number.

Hairy Woodpecker: 8 GTree 30 Sep (SP), large number.

N. Flicker: 1200 RMSP 22 Oct (KF, SF); 400 RMSP 25 Oct (SSM, mob); large numbers.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): 3 reps RICH incl 2 High Rock P.

Am. Kestrel: 985 FIHW (*fide* DP), 15% above 20-yr avg; 3 GTree 30 Sep (SP).

Merlin: 1590 FIHW (*fide* DP), 21% above 20-yr avg.

Peregrine Falcon: 172 FIHW (*fide* DP), 11% below 20-yr avg.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: HSP 31 Oct-2 Nov (JQ, mob).

Western Kingbird: MNSA 1 Sep (MF); APEC 15 Sep (AD, *et al.*); JBWE 19 Sep (RP); 2 Hallock SP Preserve, Laurel, SUFF 3 Oct (JHaa); Marine Park, KING 8 Oct (HL).

GRAY KINGBIRD: JBWE 10 Nov (PR, BV, mob).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Deep Hollow, Montauk, SUFF 20-21 Oct (JGi, mob); Deep Hollow 4 Nov (JRoss), same bird?; Pt Lookout 10 Nov (SSch).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: appx 15 reps; Marine P 14 Oct (RBA), late.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Owls Head P 26 Oct (SBA), ph, late.

Alder Flycatcher: Sag 2 Sep (SSM); Brookhaven, SUFF 9 Sep (BBo); Arasamomaka Preserve Southold, SUFF 12 Sep (JSe).

Empidonax sp.: SMSP 12 Nov (B. Bull), ph!, likely a Least Flycatcher.

E. Phoebe: 85 GTree 30 Sep (SP); 65 GTree 14 Oct (SP); large numbers.

N. Shrike: juv FT 11 Nov (DG, mob); Marine P 17 Nov (J. Salas).

Philadelphia Vireo: CIC 15 Sep (RBA); JBWE 15 Sep (RBA); Southard's Pd, Babylon, SUFF 15 Sep (RBA); 2 RMSP 30 Sep (PMo, TS); Shelter I, SUFF 17 Oct (OB).

Com. Raven: 2 CIC 4 Sep (SSI); 2 Wertheim NWR, Shirley, SUFF 29 Sep (MLL); Staten I Industrial Park 5 Oct (CH); JBWE 7 Oct (RPx); 4 Northville 16-17 Oct (MLL), noted in

area thru; 6 Gtree 21 Oct (SP, *et al.*), large num; 2 William Floyd Estate, Mastic B, SUFF 18 Nov (MLL); 2 CR 26 Nov (RV); now under-reported.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Widespread irruption; 26 CIC 4 Sep (SSI); 9 GTree 20 Sep (SP); 104 RMSP 14 Oct (SSM, mob).

Winter Wren: PP 7 Sep (SSI), early.

Marsh Wren: 2 GTree 20 Sep (SP), unusual loc.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: HSP 28-30 Oct (LN, mob).

Veery: GTree 30 Sep (SP), late.

Swainson's Thrush: 94 Lynbrook, NASS 3 Oct (TH), large num, nocturnal flight call count.

Hermit Thrush: GTree 30 Sep (SP), early.

VARIED THRUSH: 57th St. & Central Park West, NEWY 4 Nov (*fide* DB), window strike taken to rehab.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (R10): Crab Meadow B, Northport, SUFF 29 Nov (TS).

EVENING GROSBEAK (R10): m SMSP 24-27 Oct (TS, mob); 2 SMSP 28 Oct, mf, m thru 30 Oct (RBA); 2 CP 25 Oct (NS); Setauket 25 Oct (RBA); Midland B, RICK 28 Oct (ACi); 12 CP 8 Nov (DA); FT 11 Nov (DG); RMSP 11 Nov (BF); JBWE 15 Nov (RV); Wading R, SUFF 17 Oct (RBA); JBWE 18 Nov (TH); CP 19 Nov (RBA).

Purple Finch: present thru incl major irruption late Oct: 37 RMSP 14 Oct (SSM, mob); 27 GTree 14 Oct (SP); 1147 FT 19 Oct (SBA); 1500 RMSP 25 Oct (SSM, mob); 2216 RMSP 30 Oct (SSM); 71 JBWE 18 Nov (TH); 5 JBWR 22 Nov (AB); 4 CP 24 Nov (*fide* DA).

Red Crossbill: MF 30 Oct (RV); 2 MB 31 Oct (IG); 3 RMSP 11 Nov (BF); 5 Tobay B 16 Nov (SA, RK); 14 JBWE 21 Nov (RBA); 2 FBF 21 Nov (RBA).

Com. Redpoll: RMSP 31 Oct (RBA); 2 FT 22 Nov (RBA).

Pine Siskin: substantial irruption incl: 83 RMSP 14 Oct (SSM, mob); 1000 RMSP 25 Oct (SSM, mob); 2690 RMSP 30 Oct (SSM); 50 Grymes Hill, RICH 9 Nov (HF), at feeder; max 5238 RMSP 11 Nov (BF, mob); 5 Northville 17 Nov (MLL); 2 William Floyd Estate, Mastic Beach, SUFF (MLL); 374 JBWE 18 Nov (TH); 25 CP 24 Nov (DA) 30 CR 26 Nov (RV).

Am. Goldfinch: 1320 RMSP 30 Oct (SSM); 1253 JBWE 18 Nov (TH).

Lapland Longspur: several reps from 21 Oct.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Chipping Sparrow: 91 GTree 20 Sep (SP); 60 GTree 30 Sep (SP); 81 GTree 14 Oct (SP); large numbers.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Appx 30 reps incl: GTree 14 Oct (SP); max 3 RMSP 9 Oct (KF, SF); 2 KP 25 Oct (PR).

Vesper Sparrow: appx 40 reps incl: 4 MF 21 Oct (JRG); max 8 VCP 3 Nov (NS), large num.

Lark Sparrow: appx 10 reps incl: Governor's I 1 Sep (BC); FBF 3 Sep (TP); DOP 15 Sep (RBA); Owl's Head P, KING 20 Sep (RBA); FBF 23 Sep (RBA); CP 27 Sep (RBA); JBWE 13-28 Oct (RBA).

Savannah Sparrow: 50+ in one farm field, Northville, SUFF 17 Nov (MLL).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Shore Rd P, KING 21 Sep (G. Keri); PP 19 Oct PPaul); RMSP 22 Oct (KF); JBWE 24 Oct (B. Belford, *et al.*).

Song Sparrow: 219 GTree 14 Oct (SP), large number.

Swamp Sparrow: 23 GTree 30 Sep (SP), large number; 214 GTree 14 Oct (SP), record count for NY.

White-throated Sparrow: 1500 RMSP 25 Oct (DF), large num.

HARRIS'S SPARROW: CP 4 Nov (*fide* DBa).

White-crowned Sparrow: 59 Hither Hills SP, SUFF 28 Oct (AnW), large num.

"Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow: juv Cedar Grove B, RICH 23 Oct (RV).

Yellow-breasted Chat: appx 20 reps incl: City Hall P, NEWY 23-29 Oct (RBA), unusual loc.

Boat-tailed Grackle: max 300 Charles Memorial P, Howard Beach, QUEE 17&24 Nov (R. Serio).

Ovenbird: 2 Union Square P, NEWY 21 Nov (RBA), late.

Worm-eating Warbler: Gardiner CP, SUFF 12 Nov (KF), late.

Louisiana Waterthrush: PP 15 Sep (DHR, RM), rare in fall, late.

Black-and-white Warbler: IHP 12 Nov (NO), late.

Tennessee Warbler: Pt. Lookout 10 Nov (MZ), late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: appx 60 reps incl: GTree 14 Oct (SP); 2 APP 28 Oct (PR).

Connecticut Warbler: appx 10 reps incl: Northville 1 Sep (MLL); PP 7 Sep (SSI); Governor's I, NEWY 8 Sep (GW); JBWE 11 Sep (TH); CP 23 Sep (RBA).

Mourning Warbler: Nassau-Suffolk Trail, Plainview, NASS 21 Oct (PR), late.

Am. Redstart: GTree 14 Oct (SP), late; JBWE 7 Nov (RK, mob), very late.

Cape May Warbler: Madison Square P, NEWY 20 Nov (RBA), late, unusual loc.

Cerulean Warbler: CP 20-22 Sep (RBA), rare in fall.

N. Parula: 2 JBWE 17-18 Nov (TH), late.

Magnolia Warbler: CLP 30 Oct – 1 Nov (HF); PP 10 Nov (M. Brauer), late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 10,000 RMSP 30 Oct (SSM).

Yellow-throated Warbler: EPCAL 22 Sep (RBA).

Black-throated Green Warbler: CLP 1 Nov (HF); GwC 11 Nov (M. Wills); late.

Wilson's Warbler: CLP 1 Nov (HF); IHP 12 Nov (NO), late.

Summer Tanager: CLP 19 Oct (GB).

Blue Grosbeak: GTree 20 Sep (SP); 2 Gtree 30 Sep (SP); GTree 14 Oct (SP).

Indigo Bunting: 31 GTree 30 Sep (SP), large number.

Dickcissel: Appx 35 reps incl: 3 RMSP 19 Sep (SSM); 2 GTree 20 Sep (SP); 2 Marine P 6 Oct (HL); 2 RMSP 8 Oct (KF, SF); GTree 14 Oct (SP); JBWE 18 Nov (TH); CHP 19 Nov (ACi).

EXOTICS

Mandarin Duck: CP 10 Oct thru (mob), widely reported in media.

European Goldfinch: 5 CIC 4 Sep (SSI), noted in flight of migrant landbirds.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

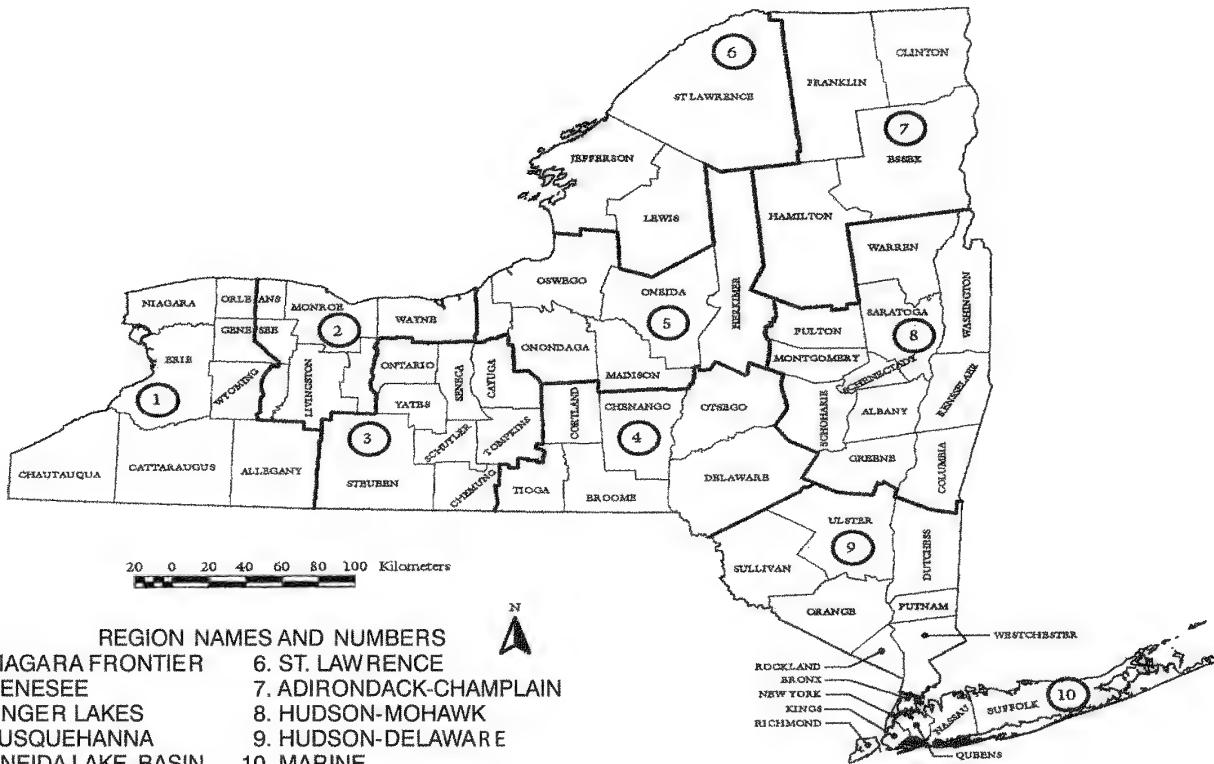
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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The **KINGBIRD**



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The KINGBIRD

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Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, © Andrew Vallely.

JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS AND A FEW GOOD FRIENDS

MaryLaura Lamont

woodpink59@gmail.com

Tall, lanky, gentle and scientifically minded, John Treadwell Nichols was one of the greatest all around naturalists that America ever had, and he worked during the heyday of modern scientific field naturalists. Born in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts in 1883, his family moved to New York City by the time he was two. He grew up exploring Central Park and the Rockaways, where the family went to escape the summertime city heat. Always loving the out of doors, he became particularly interested in birds at an early age and always loved sailing the seas and exploring its environs. He took a trip around Cape Horn to Hawaii with his older brother in an old sailing bark, the *Nuanu* in 1900-01, when he was just 17 years old. He had taken a year off before college to make this memorable trip, then attended Harvard earning a degree in Vertebrate Zoology in 1906. In many of his later publications Nichols would refer to that memorable but long, hard voyage, discussing the seabirds he encountered as well as the difficulties in navigating a sailing ship around Cape Horn. By 1907 John T. Nichols had joined the staff of the New York City's American Museum of Natural History, working first in the Mammalogy department. He had asked his friend, the well known ornithologist Frank Chapman, if there was a job opening in the Ornithology department, as birds and everything associated with them was his keenest interest. There was no opening at that time; however, there was an opening in the Mammalogy department, which he gladly took. When an opening in the Ichthyology-Herpetology department came about for an assistant curator, he switched into that field in 1910, and stayed there until "retirement" in 1952. He worked his way up quickly to become the Curator of Recent Fishes and was considered a world expert on fish. As Curator Emeritus, after 1952, he still assisted at the Museum until just before his death in 1958.

He married Cornelia D. Floyd of Old Mastic, Suffolk County, Long Island, at her family's ancient manse by the sea in 1910 and they lovingly raised four children there as well as at their other house in Garden City, in Nassau County. Cornelia's great-great-grandfather was none other than William Floyd, one of four New Yorkers who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The Garden City home was purchased because it was closer to John's work at the Museum since the Mastic commute was too long for everyday travel. Mastic, however, remained the family's treasured home, and, amid the "pathless woods," old fields, the vast fresh and salt marshes along Moriches Bay, plus the barrier beach beyond, the great JTN observed and annotated natural history and penned many of his publications. To this day his original nature journals survive in the archives of the old home, known now as the National Park Service's William Floyd Estate, as do many other of his writings, including his beautifully

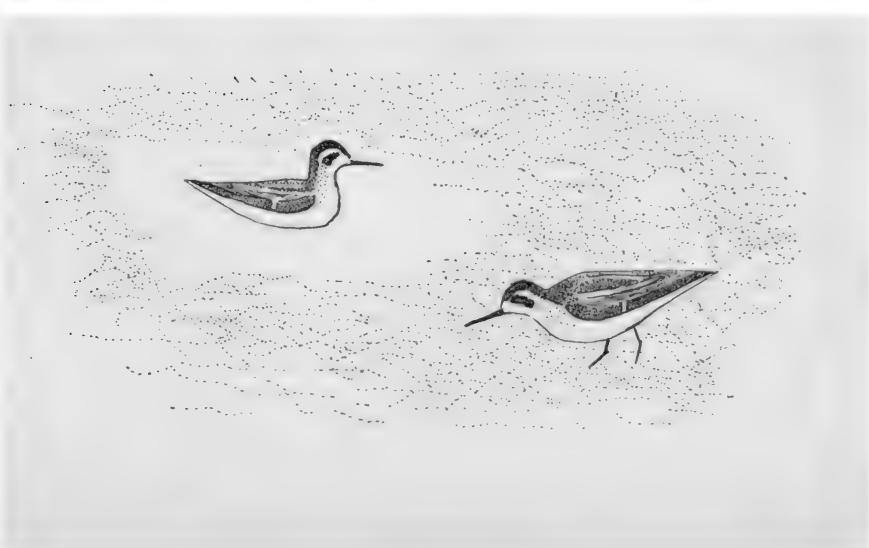
written but little known poetry books. His poetry dealt with tides, the sea and shores, winds and sailing ships. He authored about 1000 publications in his lifetime and while totally engaged scientifically in numerous disciplines (herpetology, ichthyology, ornithology, mammalogy) he found the time to write poetry and natural history articles, band birds, study eastern box turtles and edit dozens of publications, as well as establish long-running scientific organizations! He was widely considered an excellent ornithologist, not just the Museum's well respected ichthyologist. He published hundreds of articles on birds throughout his time. Several examples from his journals are presented here, unmodified so punctuation and spellings are as they originally appeared.

At the Museum early on in his career he met and became friends with many other field naturalists this country was producing. Naturalists and birders today on Long Island and elsewhere will recognize the names of these pioneering field people. Ludlow Griscom, Robert Cushman Murphy, Francis Harper, Charles H. Rogers, and Lynn Bogue Hunt all tramped the marshes, fields and woods with Nichols. They were men who were to make big names for themselves in various fields, just as the young Nichols was doing. When they came to visit JTN and Cornelia at their beloved Old Mastic home, it was tradition, and required by the homeowners, to sign names into the Floyd/Nichols guest books. It is awe inspiring for today's birders and naturalists to find Murphy's name or Harper's name on the same guest book page with Griscom's and Rogers'. Who among us today wouldn't "give our eye teeth" to go birding with these greats? Occasionally these natural history excursions produced excellent scientific publications. Whole articles, or books, can be or have been written about these men but a few facts will be mentioned here regarding these "field and marsh tramping" friends of John T. Nichols.

Ludlow Griscom worked first in the American Museum's Ichthyology department, leaving that by switching to ornithology and working for Frank Chapman. He eventually left there to work in ornithology at Harvard, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He advocated for the identification of birds by using field marks, instead of shooting them to identify them, as was the practice at that time. Nichols and Griscom published papers together, for example: "Freshwater Fishes of the Congo Basin" in the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* (1917); and "Notes on Long Island Birds" in *The Auk* (1917, with Murphy also as a co-author). In 1915 Griscom and Nichols, while out canoeing in Home Creek in Mastic, found two Northern Phalaropes (now known as Red-necked Phalarope). Excerpts from Nichols' personal journal about the encounter are included (Figures 1 and 2). By 1923, Griscom authored the classic book, *Birds of the New York City Region*, and his friend JTN reviewed and edited the entire manuscript. Griscom pioneered the way for a new generation of influential birders, including Roger Tory Peterson, who stated that Griscom influenced his now-famous field guides.

Mastic, Saturday August 28, 1915.

In the afternoon with an easterly coming on we found two Northern Phalarope on the weed in Beach Point Cove. In the early morning of the 30 after the storm presumably the same two birds were still there. They were very tame and when flushed flew only a short distance before alighting again. L.G. tried unsuccessfully to "harpoon" one with a paddle of the canoe.



Figures 1 & 2. Excerpts from J. T. Nichol's journal, concerning the discovery of two Northern (now Red-necked) Phalaropes on 28 Aug 1915.

Robert Cushman Murphy worked as an ornithologist at the Brooklyn Museum before joining the staff of the American Museum, where he eventually became the Curator of Oceanic Birds. Murphy and his family became lifelong friends with the Nichols family. Every July 4th was spent together celebrating at the Old Mastic House. Murphy and Nichols published articles together, and then, like Nichols, Murphy published his own classics, such as *Fish Shape Paumanok* in 1962, and *Logbook for Grace: Whaling Brig Daisy 1912- 1913* (1947), dedicated to his wife and about his trip on the last American whale ship, *Daisy*, in 1912. Murphy was also one of the leading environmental advocates of his day. As time went on he called for the creation of a park to protect the rare Sunken Forest on Fire Island, and Fire Island National Seashore was established by 1965. He also called for the preservation of his friend's old home and lands in Mastic when it was offered to the National Park Service in 1965 by Cornelia Floyd Nichols and her children.

Lynn Bogue Hunt, the famous American wildlife artist, came to Old Mastic multiple times to hunt and sketch shorebirds and ducks. He worked as an illustrator for the magazine *Field and Stream*, as well as many other publications. His game-bird artwork is considered among the best ever produced in America. He illustrated hundreds of articles, posters, calendars and books as well. In 1944 Hunt wrote and illustrated *Game Birds of America*. Fortunately, when he penned his name into the Mastic guestbook, he left wonderful sketches of shorebirds or ducks he saw in the marshes with Nichols (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Greater Yellowlegs, by Lynn Bogue Hunt in the Nichols/Floyd guestbook.

In 1929, when Nichols published “At the Edge of the Antarctic Ice” in *Natural History Magazine* (Vol. XXIX, No. 2), Lynn B. Hunt painted the scene of killer whales, and R. C. Murphy’s photographs of seabirds and penguins were published within the story. In Nichols’ journals are recorded sightings of birds that Hunt passed on to Nichols that the latter deemed noteworthy. For example, on 11 June 1922, “Mr. L. B. Hunt reports 1 adult Laughing Gull and also an immature bird off Dosoris Landing, north of Glen Cove.”

Francis Harper, another life-long friend of the Nichols family, knew the woods and marshes of Mastic even before JTN married Cornelia, as he was hiking, hunting and exploring there. He was a naturalist whose degree from Cornell was in the same subject as Nichols’ was—vertebrate zoology. Like Nichols, he dabbled in everything natural but also was a skilled photographer. His early 20th century photos of the Unkechaug-Poospatuck Native Americans on the Forge River, Mastic, today are in the Smithsonian archives in Washington, D.C. Harper also captured photos of a Bald Eagle in flight (they used to nest on the Forge) which were used as a model in making the Standing Liberty quarter of 1919 by the US Mint. This little known piece of history fortunately was written down by Cornelia. Had she not done this no one would know of this Long Island origin. Locals all called it the “Mastic Eagle” quarter.

Harper is most well known for his publications on the 18th century American naturalists, the Bartrams. Harper also co-authored early papers with Nichols on fish and birds. “Some Notes on Long Island Shorebirds” came out in *The Auk* in 1916, complete with their own photographs from Mastic marshes and other south shore locations. Like Griscom, Harper is referred to by his initials in numerous of Nichols’ recorded journal notes: “June 13, 1915 Mastic—with F.H. marked 4 young flickers with bands; Sept. 11, 1915 Mastic—out with F.H. and L.G., Harper shot a Silvery Hair Bat on New Made Island. Later a Ring billed gull was observed carrying something in its bill, a larger Herring Gull pursuing. As they swooped and turned the Ring-bill seemed to be trying without success to swallow its booty. Presently it dropped it into the water and I at once put out into the water in the canoe and found a dead bedraggled Prairie Warbler! Later we saw a Red headed Woodpecker flying over the Beach Point Meadow.” On 12 September at Mastic, Nichols recorded “out in the afternoon with F.H and L.G. a flock of 3 American Widgeon and 1 European* Widgeon on the water between Beach Pt. and New Made Island. The European Widgeon had a chestnut head and cinnamon side of breast.” The asterisk indicated a life bird for Nichols, and perhaps for the other men as well.

Charles H. Rogers became the Curator of the ornithological collection at Princeton by 1920, after starting at the American Museum in 1913. His first bird walk, when he was 11 years old in 1900, was in Central Park, with none other than Frank Chapman when he conducted the very first Christmas Bird Count! He, like the others, roamed the marshes and beaches with Nichols, and his name is recorded several times in the old guest books, typically with a short statement of the wonderful time he had at Mastic. He is also credited with contributing

birding data in the Nichols and Harper publication on shorebirds, noted above. Nichols has Rogers recorded in his nature journals as C.H.R. “August 14, 1920 Mastic— With C.H.R. had snipe stool set in a pool on the meadow nw of the bay. It was sunny and hot with fresh southwest breeze. At about 10:15 am a Marbled Godwit was seen coming in from the north with steady curlew-like flight. It dropped in nicely and remained for about 10 minutes, chiefly standing and preening itself. Finally, when a single greenleg (*Micropalama*) [now Stilt Sandpiper] swung low over it, it took wing and continued into the south.” In New Jersey today there is a wildlife refuge named in honor of the ornithologist Rogers.

These early scientific naturalist/birders all had a few things in common—their love of the natural environment and John Treadwell Nichols as a friend. And they all came to Mastic which was at that time quite the undeveloped natural paradise, still teeming with birds, wildlife and baylife. It was a great place to observe, learn, share stories, write, collect, and forget the cares of the new “stressful” modern age.

Nichols and Griscom did the Mastic Christmas Bird Count together in 1916 and published results in *Bird Lore*. Nichols and Murphy did the Orient Christmas Count in 1917 with none other than the famous self-taught naturalist Roy Latham of Orient! Roy was finding and documenting so many good birds at Orient (he established the Orient Christmas Bird Count in 1904) and elsewhere that the icons from the museums decided to go with Latham to see for themselves all the good birds he had found on eastern Long Island. Nichols, Murphy, George P. Englehardt and Latham published in *Copeia* in 1915 the article “Snakes of Long Island.”

In 1939, The Bird Club of Long Island started to publish a series of large booklets dealing with bird life entitled *Birds of Long Island*. It was done to foster the science of bird study on this island of ours, and Nichols was the editor of the publications from the beginning until 1954. LeRoy Wilcox, Allan Cruickshank and Nichols published four separate articles on Piping Plovers and all were contained within the Volume 1 edition. “A Picture of Bird Migration, With Particular Reference to Long Island” came out in 1948. Nichols’ “Shorebird Memories,” authored in 1953, was wonderfully written. The 1954 (Vol. 8) issue contained the article entitled “The Hurricane of 38, In Retrospect,” by the eminent Dr. William Helmuth of East Hampton, N.Y., another of Nichols’ acquaintances. Nichols wrote about Helmuth at the end of that article that they met in 1915 in New Jersey and had remained friends through the years. This is what JTN had to say about the doctor: “He was an outstanding field naturalist.... it is safe to say none who knew the bird-life of the island more intimately than did Dr. Helmuth.” This could be said about all of Nichols’ friends as well as himself! Nichols recalled, as Helmuth had, a local doctor who had influenced them both as young birders. Nichols said “Thus it appears first that the medical profession is a fertile soil for the ornithological

spark and secondly, who knows how far the spark may travel from person to person before flowering into something for the many to steer by?"

Famous Teddy Roosevelt told Nichols in 1918 "I always greatly enjoy seeing you! I am yours to command at any time!" referring to the next time Nichols was about in Central Park looking for birds. Imagine this former titanic president of international fame telling the humble, quiet, scientific Nichols "I am yours to command!" How wild! Roosevelt kept sightings of birds through the years which eventually Nichols used in publications. In 1922 Nichols and Griscom with two other acquaintances visited Aldo Leopold in Chicago where he took them birding to look at gulls and terns along the lake shoreline. Today we can only imagine what these early times with all these giants must have been like. History was being made in the natural modern age of men. And they were all bird watchers and they all loved it, just like we do today.

Nichols' writings are timeless, poignant and beautifully written. Some excerpts from his 1953 "Shorebird Memories": "Mastic, July 6, 1912.....I remember it as clearly as if it had been yesterday, I saw an unknown bird approaching from the east....Now it was passing my rig in fair range, a big brown bird with a long, decurved bill, a Jack or Hudsonian Curlew! But it did not pause or swerve, held to its course into the distant west. And I had forgotten my camera and lost this chance of having a curlew picture in the collection of Shorebird photographs I made in the years before the First War. That was a good day! In the afternoon C. [Cornelia] and I tramped the meadows bordering the mainland side of the bay, where there was as nice a view of a Henslow's Sparrow singing atop a tuft of grass as I can remember." Nichols documented Henslow's Sparrow as nesting on their land in Mastic, and noted in his journal that a sparrow hawk got into the Henslow's nest one year and took the chicks! Who of us today can even find a Henslow's Sparrow on Long Island?

In 1913 Nichols established the journal *Copeia*, and in 1915 he founded the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, which continues to publish that famous journal to this day. Not many people know this fact—Nichols was the ichthyologist who was sent to the New Jersey shore in the summer of 1916 to investigate several fatal shark attacks on swimmers. He correctly theorized it had to be a great white shark; others disagreed with him but he was eventually proved correct. This true story of the attacks by a rogue shark became the basis of the popular book and movie, *Jaws*.

In 1914 John started marking box turtles on the Mastic lands and from his studies we know today that the humble box turtle can live for over 100 years. I was honored to find a marked Nichols turtle at the Floyd estate on 21 June 1997, right outside the house door. Upon turning it over I discovered JTN marked it exactly 50 years prior—on 21 June 1947! Remarkably, he also found it right outside the same door, proving how territorial these little terrapins are through their long lives!

Some of JTN's books include *Fishes in the Vicinity of New York* (1918), *The Marine Fishes of New York and Southern New England* (1927, with Charles

M. Breder as co-author), *North American Fresh Water Fishes* (1942), *Freshwater Fishes of China* (1943), and *Fishes and Shells of the Pacific World* (1945, with co-author Paul Bartsch). Then there are his hundreds of articles and other publications. One of his last came out just a few months before his death, in 1958, in *Marine Life, Occasional Papers* (Vol. 1, No. 10), entitled "Reminiscences, Thoughts and Records From Observations At Sea." It is mostly about seabirds, with some notes on fish. A few excerpts from this publication are: "The Kittiwake is perhaps my favorite gull. Aside from the beauty of its plumage, there is a subtle quality in its flight, which is particularly free, graceful and controlled, and often enables the practiced eye to pick it out in a mixed assemblage of other species." Within the same article the poetic Nichols wrote, "Looking down into North Atlantic water off soundings, it is blue, a paler blue where somewhat less deep in mid-ocean. It is green over the banks which stretch far east from Newfoundland, somewhat bluer in channels which traverse them. I have no proven knowledge of why this is the case." "The Cory's shearwaters...occurs commonly along the American coast in summer. I have identified it as well as the Greater within binocular range off Long Island's South Shore beaches, also another large species, the all around dark Sooty Shearwater which nests in the Southern Hemisphere."

JTN was a lifelong bird bander, and he banded birds from several localities, including Mastic and Garden City. Family members told me that their grandfather John used to band birds from the old desk (still there) in the library in the Old Mastic house. He would rig up a box contraption outside the window with strings and write profusely at the desk until a bird was trapped in the rigging. He would then wheel the strings in with pulleys, band the bird on the desk, release the bird out the big window, then send the rigging back out, record the species, dates and band numbers and continue with his writing! In the nature journals are recorded all the birds he banded there. His last few journal entries, just before his death, he recorded as "Mastic, Sept. 1, 1958—2 or more robins in the tall old barberry bush in the Garden at Mastic, eating its berries" and his very last recording before his death, "Garden City, Nov 1, 1958—2 male house sparrows trapped at front of house, banded and released." He always sent in interesting sightings for *The Kingbird* and his article on "Sparrow Associations" appeared in *The Kingbird* in early 1958, several months before he passed on. For multiple years he was the editor of the field notes section of *Bird Lore*, the predecessor of the National Audubon magazine and *North American Birds*.

In a letter from Robert C. Murphy to JTN dated November 1948 (Nichols' son David had found an interesting primary feather on the ocean at Jones Beach), Murphy wrote, "The wing quill from the Long Island shore is beyond any shadow of doubt that of an albatross. While it is very worn, it appears to be not long moulted... it most closely resembles *Diomedea chlororhynchos* which is the smallest species of this group of albatrosses ever to be recorded from the Atlantic Ocean..... It seems to me that the quill is worth a record in *The Auk*

because it positively indicates the presence of a mollymauk off the eastern coast of the United States.”

It is recorded in family writings that the great John T. Nichols used to delight in showing family and guests the old eagle’s nest that was on the property historically. Bald Eagles were frequently recorded in Mastic journals, until they disappeared by the 1940s. Eventually the owners of the land, John and Cornelia, passed away and were buried in the old homestead cemetery. What could be a more fitting tribute to them both than today having Bald Eagles finally return from the brink of extinction to once again nest on their ancient lands, as they do now?

The stories go on and on. How can one wrap up a story about such an outstanding personality, a giant among his peers who did so much to foster the understanding of the natural world, particularly birds? A quote from his friend Ludlow Griscom says it all in the 1923 book *Birds of the New York City Region*: “Above all I must thank Mr. J. T. Nichols who knew more about Long Island birds than anyone living.”

Editor’s Note: John Treadwell Nichols’ obituary was published in *The Kingbird*, Volume 12: pages 3-6. The present piece’s scope and perspective are engaging and distinct, warranting a reintroduction to this great New York naturalist, for readers six decades after his death.



WINTER WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 2019

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[Editor's Note—Due to slight variations in the template files used in compiling this report, some of the species totals for Region 10 were incorrectly published here. These errors affected the summary as well, therefore the entire corrected report was reprinted in the following issue, Kingbird 69: 211-215.]

About 387 volunteers went into the field 12-27 January 2019 and conducted the New York State Ornithological Association's January Waterfowl Count (JWC). The volunteers logged 1025.5 party-hours and counted 390,487 waterfowl. Swift (2007) described the methodology of the count.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The only significant snow in the state leading up to and during the waterfowl count period was in the western part of the State. Buffalo recorded a 13-inch snow cover on January 20, the count's target date, and 15-inch snow cover on January 26. The snow in Buffalo was accompanied by sub-zero weather on January 20, as well. The target date's weather did lead to some changed plans for participants, but the count's overall coverage of the State was good.

RESULTS

In this summary, I will compare the 2019 numbers with the average annual numbers from the decade, 2001-2010. The total number of waterfowl counted this year, 390,486, was 6780 (2%) more than the average for the 2001-2010 decade. The difference was primarily due to an overall larger count of geese, primarily Canada Geese, which was 44,522 (26%) more than the decade average. This larger count of geese more than offset the lower count of ducks and miscellaneous other waterfowl than the decade average. The 2019 count of swans was just 110 (4%) more than the decade average, a higher count of Tundra Swans overcoming a lower count of Mute Swans.

Lingering Wood Ducks and Northern Shovelers accounted for the only counts of dabbling ducks that were higher than the 2001-2010 average. Among diving ducks, the counts of Redheads, Greater Scaup (unless all the unidentified scaup from 2001-2010 were this species and none of the unidentified scaup in this count were), Common Eider, Long-tailed Duck, and Hooded Merganser were all higher than the decade average. All the non-Anseriformes waterfowl species counts were lower in the 2019 count than the average for the 2001-2010 decade.

Table 1. Regional totals for the 2019 January Waterfowl Count.

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Goose, Gr. White-fr.	1	0	0		0		0	0	4	2	7
Snow	0	49	12,058		0		0	1	9	602	12,719
Ross's	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	3,884	3,884
Canada	5,286	15,741	42,879	5,118	4,873	1,191	0	23,840	31,011	52,013	181,952
Cackling	0	2	2	1	0		0	0	8	491	504
Brant	0	0	0		0		0	0	550	18,068	18,618
Swan, Mute	9	176	25		18	103	0	17	317	648	1,313
Trumpeter	0	16	20		6		0	0	0	0	42
Tundra	196	0	1,060		33	28	0	0	0	0	1,317
not to species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	0	0	2	2	0		0	0	28	38	70
Gadwall	12	1	62	3	16		0	0	72	1,211	1,377
Wigeon, Eurasian	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	40	40
American	5	0	41	1	0		0	0	51	698	796
Am. Black Duck	64	168	661	277	63	78	42	96	611	6,598	8,658
Mallard	2,042	2,424	4,946	1,393	1,600	522	1,404	1,611	5,478	7,594	29,014
Mallard X Black	2	2	2		0		0	0	1	12	19
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	0	1		0		0	0	7	582	590
Northern Pintail	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	4	103	114
Green-winged Teal	1	4	1	1	0	2	0	0	4	131	144
Canvasback	4,255	14	964	3	3		0	3	90	159	5,491
Redhead	1,143	2,649	15,738	345	156	7	0	1	9	32	20,080
Ring-necked Duck	9	84	301	5	19		0	1	417	423	1,259
Tufted Duck	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	34	34
Scaup, Greater	16,817	397	403	31	132		0	0	1,128	18,918	37,826

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Lesser	3	17	104	3	20	2	0	0	35	1,145	1,329
not to species	130	10	243		50		100	0	1	1,876	2,410
Eider, King	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	1	1
Common	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	3,331	3,331
Harlequin Duck	1	0	0		0		0	0	0	224	225
Scoter, Surf	0	0	0		1		0	0	0	625	626
White-winged	99	34	20	1	42		0	0	1	1,198	1,395
Black	0	0	0		1		0	0	0	2,230	2,231
not to species	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	4,488	4,488
Long-tailed Duck	1,182	2,565	46	13	475	539	0	0	207	3,266	8,293
Bufflehead	925	24	201	4	33	16	22	0	830	4,355	6,410
Goldeneye, Co.	2,234	1,098	1,982	139	670	1,504	359	467	538	1,046	10,037
Barrow's	1	1	0		0		0	0	0	66	68
Merganser, Hooded	57	9	98	133	47	1	5	59	253	1,142	1,804
Common	1,058	410	3,323	364	1,560	762	241	431	1,547	188	9,884
Red-breasted	702	3,523	486	2	163	65	0	0	89	1,738	6,768
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0		0		0	0	18	1,435	1,453
Loon, Red-throated	0	3	0		0		0	0	7	110	120
Common	0	3	2		0		2	0	43	207	257
Grebe, Pied-billed	3	1	6		3		0	0	5	18	36
Horned	0	3	3	1	0		2	0	16	210	235
Red-necked	0	1	0	2	0		0	0	0	2	5
Eared	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0
Cormorant, D.-cr.	16	17	1		26		0	0	2	99	161
Great	0	0	0		0		0	0	47	49	96
American Coot	0	29	240		2		0	0	23	156	450
Other/Unidentified	1,297	3	901		0	41	0	0	21	243	2,506
TOTALS	37,550	29,481	86,822	7,844	10,012	4,862	2,177	26,528	43,482	141,729	390,487

LONG-TERM TRENDS

We have been watching for many years the long-term trend of increasing numbers of Tundra Swans wintering in New York State, the number peaking at 4065 in 2016. That number dropped to 1443 in 2017 and to 655 in 2018. The number rebounded somewhat in the 2019 count to 1317. We have also been watching Canvasbacks. While their numbers vary widely from year to year, their two highest counts, 24,584 and 25,718, both occurred in the 2001-2010 decade. Their two lowest counts, 3,771 and 4,514, occurred in the current decade.

By comparing the averages for the periods 1973-2000, 2001-2010, and 2013-2019 possible long-term trends in New York State's winter waterfowl populations can be identified. Possible long-term increases can thus be seen for Snow Goose, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser. Long-term decreases may be happening to American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, and Common Merganser.

FUTURE COUNTS

You can help with the 2020 count by contacting your regional compiler. Compiler contact information and historical data are available online at:

<http://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

For planning purposes, the January Waterfowl Count is conducted in a period that begins the Saturday before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (the third Monday in January). The next two count periods will be:

2020 – January 18-26 (target date Sunday, January 19)

2021 – January 16-24 (target date Sunday, January 17)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2019 January Waterfowl Count. The many dedicated field observers volunteered many hours in the field. Regional and local compilers and coordinators deserve special thanks for making sure that the state had good coverage and for compiling the data in a timely manner. The regional compilers, this year, were:

Region	Compiler	Region	Compiler
1	Jim Landau	6	Jeff Bolsinger
2	Robert Spahn	7	Gary Lee
3	Thomas Bell	8	Bryan Swift
4	Gail Kirch	9	Bill Ostrander
5	Bill Purcell	10	Clifford Hagen

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UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS OF NORTHERN PINTAILS (*Anas acuta*) ON THE LOWER NEW YORK BAY

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Northern Pintails (*Anas acuta*) are a widespread species of dabbling duck that has undergone precipitous declines in North America since the 1970s (Miller and Duncan 1999, Baldassarre 2014, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service 2018). Understanding their patterns of annual habitat use, including transient periods, is particularly important to their conservation (Clark et al. 2014). Northern Pintails congregate in large flocks during migratory stopovers and begin their spring migration just prior to the thawing of bodies of freshwater in late February, making them one of the earliest migrating species of waterfowl on the continent (Baldassarre 2014, Clarke et al. 2014). In New York, Northern Pintails have historically stopped over in their greatest abundances at inland freshwater marshes (e.g. Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge). Recently, however, these numbers have been greatly reduced (Levine 1998), and the species is now considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) as defined under the New York State Wildlife Action Plan (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation [NYSDEC] 2015). In the coastal plain, they are at times locally abundant, with peak counts on the order of hundreds occurring during the fall and winter. The coastal maxima, as reported by Bull (1985) are 600 from South Haven, Suffolk County on 26 December 1934, and 600 from Jamaica Bay, Queens on 28 October 1967. Since the mid-1970s, they have not attained such high numbers, and counts from southeastern New York State have seldom exceeded 100 individuals in recent decades. Here we report on two observations of Northern Pintails stopping over in very large numbers on the Lower New York Bay in southeastern New York, representing a new coastal maximum for New York State. This event occurred during a record-breaking temperature in New York City.

We conducted a waterfowl survey at Gateway National Recreation Area, Great Kills Park ($40^{\circ}32'54''$, $-74^{\circ}07'24''$) on the east shore of Staten Island, New York on 21 February 2018. From the southern edge of the remnant *Spartina alterniflora* mudflats, we observed a large raft of Northern Pintails approximately 500 meters from shore. Several dozen were also in the tidal marshes behind the mudflats, which eventually flew out into the Bay and joined the larger flock. We counted approximately 1250 on the Lower Bay. At 17:31

EST, the flock flew southwest, and after scanning the Lower Bay for several minutes, it appeared that they did not resettle in the vicinity of Staten Island.

The next morning, 22 Feb 2018, at 10:23 hrs, we returned to the Great Kills mudflats to check if any Northern Pintails had returned. At least 250 were present about 200 meters from the shoreline. At 16:50 hrs, we again returned to the mudflats, this time counting approximately 3000 on the Bay. At about 17:37 hrs, the birds flew southwest, and like the previous day did not appear to resettle on the Bay. Following these observations, we continued to return to the site daily until 1 March. We found 36 Northern Pintails on 24 February in a flock with nine Redhead (*Aythya americana*) and four American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) but did not observe any in the following days.

On 20 and 21 February 2018, the northeastern United States experienced a record-breaking heatwave. On 21 February, the temperature rose to 78°F in New York City, the warmest February day on record for New York State (Di Liberto 2018). These unseasonably warm temperatures melted the ice that had covered the marshes on the south shore of Staten Island, revealing bodies of freshwater that the migrating Northern Pintail used to feed and roost.

To our knowledge, this is the first time that Northern Pintails have been documented using the Lower New York Bay as a migratory stopover site in significant numbers. After searching the eBird citizen science database (Sullivan et al. 2009), and consulting publications of ornithological record (*North American Birds* and its predecessors; *The Kingbird*) we conclude that our observations on 20 and 21 February 2018, of approximately 1250 and 3000 birds, respectively, represent the new coastal maxima for Northern Pintails in New York State. We also checked regional works for the surrounding states (Veit and Petersen 1993, Zeranski and Baptist 1996, McWilliams and Brauning 2000, Boyle 2011, Keith and Fox 2015; Ferren, unpub. manuscript), which confirmed that our totals were the highest at a coastal locality in eastern North America north of Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey.

As of April 2019, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are investigating various storm-risk mitigation measures for the New York City Area, including a surge gate between Sandy Hook, New Jersey and Breezy Point, New York (USACE 2019). This particular alternative has the potential to interfere with waterfowl that stop over on the Lower New York Bay during migration, including species considered SGCN in New York like Northern Pintails, Black Scotters (*Melanitta americana*), and Long-tailed Ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*). In the future, the Lower New York Bay and its tidal marshes should be monitored for Northern Pintail during the final weeks of February. This would allow for data to be collected on their habitat use during spring migration, which is lacking for this species (Clark et al. 2014).

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PATCH BIRDING—HUDSON YARDS

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Hudson Yards. Not a court, school, stock, grave, or back, but a rail yard. Six ground-level blocks of Manhattan. At the terminus, 30 train tracks abutting a heliport and the Hudson River wrapped by the High Line “Spur” flanked by two parking lots. The city covered the remaining ground-level access tunnels with streets propped two stories high, and then the developers built a vertical empire on top of that to keep everyone looking up and away from its namesake.

In early spring, I was among the first wave of employees to occupy its flagship skyscraper, the Warner Media building. One stairway, three escalators, and two elevator banks create a two-way, vertigo-inducing commute from the depths of the No. 7 subway line all the way up to my 41st-floor office, with a view of the “vessel” and “yard.”

So how is the birding? Well, among the wafer-thin, jet-engine-cooled islands of manicured gardens, tree rows, and small fountained pools scattered about the grey sea of pedestrian pavement, I find the ubiquitous immigrant House Sparrows and European Starlings, joined by Feral Pigeons, White-Throated Sparrows, and Gray Catbirds. These are the typical urban scavengers of the detritus of human lunch breaks. During spring migration, I observed a few additional species braving the nearby Bella Abzug Park. On my first foray I was thrilled to spy three skulking Swamp Sparrows. By the time migration got into full swing I occasionally sighted Common Yellowthroats, Ovenbirds, pairs of Eastern Towhees, and a secretive Hermit Thrush. But by June, when the gardens had sprouted sunflowers, lilies and busy food tents and trucks, the White-Throated Sparrows and even the Catbirds had disappeared.

From my office aerie, I can observe two high-tech green rooftops, one of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and the other, of the lesser-known U.S. Parcel Post Building. As spring turned to summer, hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls were replaced by the beefier Herring Gulls and then the addition of their toddling, fluffy grey young. (A flock of Barn Swallows briefly joined the gulls a few evenings in early May to dive-bomb Eleventh Avenue.) I’ve looked up from my lunch on the 35th floor cafeteria and seen through the big windows an Osprey, Peregrine, and Black-backed Gull fly by. Silent crows occasionally hang around the corner of 37th Street and 9th Avenue.

In spite of the human attempt to create an artificial landscape to share with nature, the migrating species predominantly seek out abandoned garbage-strewn and overgrown tangles of weeds below-street-level. That’s where the train tracks run diagonally northward, exposed intermittently until they finally disappear beneath the Midtown Tunnel ramp. The first exposure is an inaccessible “field” at the northeast corner of 35th Street and Eleventh Avenue—the largest plot of

grass outside of the green roofs—and it's home to a pair of American Robins and the only Song Sparrow I sighted.

The next exposure emerges north of the Bella Abzug Park at 36th Street—a luscious bank of wild trees and weeds sloping up steeply from the tracks to a broken concrete lot occupied by a vacated auto-body shop covered in vines. On the other side of the tracks are a couple of muddy pools. Standing in the shade of a sidewalk tree containing an abandoned bird feeder, I look in through a chain-link fence at this inaccessible mess, for this is my favorite birding patch. I have even seen a skunk twice, and one evening at dusk, a raccoon scrambled before me under broken concrete slabs.

From this patch I reported four more warblers—Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, Redstart, and in late spring—a Mourning. The surviving trees have been visited by a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Northern Flicker. I've also heard the beautiful songs of the Northern Cardinal and Baltimore Oriole.

Entering the hot summer doldrums last week, I took a stroll in the evening coolness to my patch and heard the faint song of a House Finch. After a little pishing, I saw a female House Finch fly out onto an open branch, followed by a male. That made it 30 species for Hudson Yards so far. I wish the possibly nesting couple well.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—WINTER 2018-19

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The weather this season was surprisingly consistent statewide, with everybody reporting average to warmer than average December and February temperatures, dipping below normal only in the second half of January and the very beginning of February. Precipitation overall was generally around average, with expected fluctuations within Regions.

Waterfowl numbers and diversity were generally rated as below normal in most upstate and western Regions, while downstate things seemed a little closer to average. A comment from Region 5, “numbers of wintering dabbling ducks were especially low, and no rarities were reported,” was echoed in one form or another in many Regions, with slightly more positive comments about diving ducks. Regions 2 and 3 reported decent counts of Redhead. Canvasback is still doing well in the westernmost Regions, but elsewhere it seems to be disappearing from the avifauna. Meanwhile, the wintering Greater Scaup flock in Great South Bay, Region 10, reached a peak estimate of around 25,000 birds.

Tufted Ducks were scattered across four upstate Regions, but otherwise, duck rarities went almost unreported. Barrow’s Goldeneye was reported from only four Regions, and was completely missed in Region 6 for the first time in 12 years. Common Eiders were widespread along Long Island’s south shore, with highest numbers occurring at Shinnecock, where up to 5000 birds set up mainly in the bay. For this species and Black Scoter, Shinnecock has recently become the favored wintering grounds rather than the more traditional location at Montauk Pt. An adult male King Eider at Oswego Harbor delighted birders in Region 5 from early February through the period.

White-fronted Geese seem to be solidifying their foothold in the state. High counts in several Regions were led by a maximum counts of 45 at Point Breeze in Region 1, 43 at Hammondsport in Region 3 and 31 at Green Lakes SP in Region 5. As noted in the fall reports, southbound Snow Goose numbers were far below normal in areas where they are expected, topping out at 1040 in Oswego, Region 5, on 16 December. Ross’s Geese in three Regions seemed about normal, while Barnacle and Pink-footed Geese were reported only from Region 10. Cackling Goose was reported from almost every Region—probably a result both of increased awareness and higher populations of geese in general.

Loons barely warranted a mention, except for late birds in Region 7—one each of Red-throated and Common lingering into February, and two Pacifics in Region 10, including one incredibly cooperative bird that spent three weeks in Oyster Bay, Nassau County. Observers in Region 2 are witnessing a change in the pattern of wintering Red-necked Grebe. Counts of 804 and 1123 at two Lake Ontario locations on 1 December are very impressive. On the Region 1 section of the Lake, counts peaked at 269 in mid-December. A Magnificent Frigatebird

photographed in Region 10 must have been quite a shocking sight, especially for late December. Only slightly more normal were a Brown Pelican at Moriches Inlet and a White Pelican at Mecox, also in Region 10. A count of 100 Sandhill Cranes at Montezuma in Region 3 in early December seems remarkable for a bird that so recently became a regular part of our avifauna. Thirty were still present at month's end.

Shorebirds were pretty much non-existent away from the coast. Region 2 editor Robert Spahn commented that this was the first year in memory that no shorebirds were reported in winter in his Region. Milder temperatures downstate allowed for some unusual lingering species to be found, including Spotted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit and Willet, all in Region 10. Good numbers of Wilson's Snipe and Woodcock were noted there as well, while a Woodcock in Region 8 was more unusual.

With few exceptions, gull numbers and diversity were considered to be very disappointing. A large collection of gulls on 21 January at the Moses-Saunders Dam in Region 6 included 41 Glaucous and 9 Iceland, but it is noted that no large flocks were found afterwards. Ring-billed, Herring and Great Black-backed Gull numbers were all below normal in Region 10. An adult Mew Gull was photographed in Brooklyn, and Iceland, Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed occurred in decent numbers elsewhere in the same Region. A Black-legged Kittiwake in the Long Island Sound was unusual for a north shore location. A late Common Tern was found at Montauk on 13 December.

Staying with Region 10 for a minute, alcids put on quite a show this winter, with record-shattering numbers of Razorbills leading the way. Single day counts in the thousands were recorded at many south shore locations, topping out at 9,000 and 10,000 at Montauk in December and late January. Stragglers made it well into Long Island Sound, with one even recorded on the Bronx-Westchester CBC. Scattered Dovekies and Black Guillemots, as well as Thick-billed and Common Murres, provided near constant entertainment for Region 10 birders through the season.

Black Vultures further strengthened their foothold in the state, with birds wintering in Region 1 for the eighth consecutive year. Wintering roosts were noted in Region 8, and a single bird was noted in Rochester in Region 2. Up to 99 Bald Eagles were counted along the shoreline of Onondaga Lake in Region 5, consistent with the expansion noted generally throughout the state. Northern Harrier numbers were considered to be good in Region 8 and at Pt. Peninsula in Region 6. Otherwise, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks received positive mentions in Regions 1 and 7, respectively. Single Gyrfalcons in Regions 6 and 7 provided the spice among the diurnal raptors.

Regions 1, 2 and 10 reported good numbers of Saw-whet Owls. With owls in general, it's difficult to interpret what that means. In Region 10, for example, a couple of enthusiastic searchers undoubtedly made a difference, although Saw-whet populations probably were better than average as well. On the flip side many observers are more reluctant to report sensitive species as more of us

witness harassment, mostly by photographers, of owls and other charismatic birds of prey. See notes regarding Long-eared Owl in Region 5 and Snowies in Region 10 for a couple of examples. I personally witnessed a photographer walk out into a private farm field and flush an adult Bald Eagle off a deer carcass.

Overall mild temperatures in December encouraged some passernines to linger. Many Regions reported half-hardy landbirds reluctant to move on. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were mentioned in Regions 2, 5 and 10, and most Regions had Eastern Phoebe's lingering into December. Marsh Wrens and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were well represented and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was a great find in Ithaca in Region 3. A Varied Thrush on Staten Island was a nice find, but even better were the very cooperative Townsend's Solitaire at Taconic SP in Region 8 and the Say's Phoebe at the Wallkill River NWR in Region 9. A Wood Thrush spent a week at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge in Region 10, providing one of the few well documented winter records for the state.

As Fish Crows continue to expand away from the coast and Ravens continue to march towards it, it's interesting to read the discussion in the Region 10 report about the likely role of West Nile Virus in relation to population changes among the three large corvids of our area. Matt Perry and David Wheeler in Region 5 discuss a Starling eradication program carried out by the USDA and the collateral damage such a program is likely to have on non-targeted species, including crows.

A Bohemian Waxwing in Fredonia, in Region 1, provided the first record for Chautauqua County. In areas where they are more expected, numbers were low. A Prothonotary Warbler apparently lingered into the winter season in Region 8, although the actual date of occurrence is uncertain. Other warblers away from the coast were pretty sparse, and included Nashville, Common Yellowthroat and Orange-crowned and a Yellow-breasted Chat in Region 9. In Region 10, Orange-crowned and Palm numbers were quite good, while Yellow-rumped Warblers were scarcer than normal.

Chipping, Vesper and Field Sparrows were found in several non-coastal Regions. A Harris' Sparrow lingered at a feeder in Earlville in Region 5—a great bird anywhere in the state. Something apparently went on with White-crowned Sparrows this winter. They were widely reported from many Regions, including a max single count of 62 at East Hampton in Region 10.

Every year we hear the prediction "Winter finches are coming!", and most winters the reality doesn't live up to our expectations. This year was kind of a mixed bag, with Evening Grosbeaks providing most of the excitement, even if that meant just a few large localized flocks and modest numbers elsewhere. For most of us, it's been such a long time since we've had any at all that scattered flocks and singles still provided plenty of entertainment. Kyle Arvin in Region 8 provided a running tally of grosbeaks at his feeder, recording a max of 201 on 2 December. One "celebrity" bird lingered at a small Manhattan park from mid-December into April. Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls were also ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~widely~~ ^{widely} reported ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ less impressive numbers. A scattering of Pine Grosbeaks

appeared in several upstate locations, along with a few Red Crossbills and even fewer White-winged.

There were some really good birds around the state this season—Magnificent Frigatebird and white-phase Gyrfalcon would certainly be hard to top on any New York birder's year list. The same could be said for Townsend's Solitaire or Harris' Sparrow or Mew Gull. But considering the most impact on the most birders—and non-birders as well—I think I'd say that the Bird of the Season was Evening Grosbeak as a species. Some of us remember flocks of them irrupting into the area decades ago, and after such a long drought, it was great to have them around again, whether in a flocks of 200 at a feeder in Summit or a lone bird delighting hundreds at Riverside Park in the middle of New York City.

Thanks for reading and keep the reports coming in!

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REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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December 2018 was warm with a mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station of 33.2°F, 3.1° above normal, with 3.36" of precipitation, 0.53" below normal. Only 14.1" of snowfall occurred, 13.3" below average. The mild weather continued for the first half of January before deep cold and snowy conditions arrived for the remainder of the month. The mean temperature was 22.9°, 2.0° below average. Precipitation was high with 5.71", 2.53" above average, and 63.4" of snowfall, 38.1" above normal and the fourth snowiest January on record. February brought several strong winter storms and swings in temperature. The average temperature was 27.6°, 1.3° above normal. Rainfall was 3.28", 0.79" above normal and snowfall was 16.8", 0.5" below normal. A strong cold front on the 24th included winds gusting to near 70 miles per hour causing a prolonged seiche on Lake Erie and many downed trees, believed to include some with active raptor nests as well.

The warmups in February brought geese, swans, other waterfowl, blackbirds, and a few others to the Region. For the second consecutive spring there was a strong showing of Greater White-fronted Geese. We've seen increasing numbers of sightings in both spring and fall migration this century, most often in single digits, and the numbers are swelling in recent years. This February, double digit flocks were counted in four locations, including a new maximum of 45 by Jim Wojewodzki at Point Breeze on 23 February. The increase was consistent with their movement elsewhere in the eastern Great

Lakes region in February. While winter weather patterns may have been a factor this year, it appears that the migration phenology is changing, and we can probably expect to see more Greater White-fronted Geese in spring migration moving forward.

While checking on the Greater White-fronted Geese and other waterfowl on Chautauqua Lake at Celoron on 15 February, David Cooney Jr. found a drake Eurasian Wigeon with a group of 15 American Wigeon. This marks the earliest occurrence for the Region. Other notable waterfowl sightings included a **Tufted Duck** continuing at Buffalo from late November until at least 10 December and a Barrow's Goldeneye at Point Breeze that was perhaps the same bird wintering there for many years but not found in the winter of 2017-2018. Harlequin Ducks wintered again at Niagara Falls State Park off Goat Island. Willie D'Anna counted 269 Red-necked Grebes on Lake Ontario at Wilson which is an impressive count for mid-December. Joe Mitchell identified an Eared Grebe among a few Horned Grebes on Lake Erie off Evangola State Park in early January.

Gull numbers and diversity were down this winter continuing the trend from late fall. This was unsettling for gull aficionados along the Niagara River. Bonaparte's Gull counts did not reach one thousand and only a few were present beyond early January. Little, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls were present in lower numbers than any winter in recent memory.

Black Vultures wintered along the Niagara River in Lewiston for the eighth consecutive year with up to 10 this season. Turkey Vulture continued its increased winter presence with reports from two locations in December and three other locations in January beyond the regular wintering location in Lewiston. Of note was a new winter roost in Clarence Center with up to 30 Turkey Vultures gathering on tall conifers and rooftops throughout January per Gene Florentino. The lone Northern Goshawk report was a juvenile eating a crow in Elma that was photographed by David Hejna in January. Bald Eagles are regular along the Niagara River and seemingly increasing throughout the Region in winter. Red-shouldered Hawk reports from 12 locations made for a very good winter showing, while Rough-legged Hawk reports were average at best this winter.

Up to five Snowy Owls were around Buffalo Harbor throughout the winter, along with singles at four to five other locations per month. There were two Long-eared Owl reports and Short-eared Owls were found at four locations. Six Northern Saw-whet Owl sightings made for a good winter showing.

Eastern Phoebe lingered into early December as evidenced by two reports. Northern Shrike made an average showing this winter. Two Fish Crow reports from Buffalo and Tonawanda were consistent with increased reports in late winter and spring in recent years, likely associated with the crow roost in Buffalo. There were two Marsh Wren reports in December, while Gray Catbird reports from four locations were more than normal. Karl Schmidt was surprised to find a Brown Thrasher in Cuba on **1 February**.

Gale VerHague photographed a Bohemian Waxwing in a flock of Cedar Waxwings in Fredonia on 27 February. This marks the first documented occurrence for Chautauqua County. Evening Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls were sighted throughout the winter, but they were far from being widespread in occurrence. The number of reports and a maximum of 44 grosbeaks certainly made for a good showing compared to most winters this century. Pine Siskins were present in smaller numbers and usually mixed in with American Goldfinches.

Snow Buntings were reported in the hundreds at several locations while there were only a few Lapland Longspur reports. Chipping Sparrow and Field Sparrow had more winter reports than usual with six and four locations, respectively. Savannah Sparrow is being found with more regularity in winter in recent years; Joel Strong found one in Hartland in January. Of the two Fox Sparrows reported this winter, of note was one that remained throughout the season in Rushford.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** found by Joel Strong in Newfane was only the second January report for Region 1. A Common Yellowthroat lingered at Tifft Nature Preserve until at least 20 December. Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported from four locations.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BuFH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **PG** – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tifft NP** – Tifft Nature Preserve, ERIE; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL-GREBES

Snow Goose: DH 3 Dec; Lockport NIAG 9 Jan; arr 2 Batavia GENE 5 Feb; max 35 Celoron ChauL 7 Feb; 5 Niagara NIAG 10 Feb.

Greater White-fronted Goose: WTSP 1-8 Dec; Wilson NIAG 7 Dec; Grand I NR 27 Jan (MM, CA); max 33, 45 PB 10, 23 Feb (WD, JWO), record Reg count; 14, 17 Celoron ChauL 11, 17 Feb (WS); 4 Tonawanda ERIE 17 Feb; 4, 14 BeSP 19, 22 Feb; 21 Waterport ORLE 26 Feb; unprecedented Feb abundance.

Cackling Goose: Amherst ERIE 2 Dec; BufH 4, 8 Dec; 2, 4 WTSP 10, 11 Dec; Lyndonville ORLE 7 Jan; max 6 Yates ORLE 15 Jan.

Mute Swan: DH 1-25 Dec; Cassadaga CHAU 15 Dec; 7 WTSP 3 Jan; 5 Carlton ORLE 6 Jan; Fredonia 12-22 Jan; max 10 PB 2 Feb.

Tundra Swan: 69 Chautauqua ChauL 15 Dec; max 245 NF 20 Dec; 225, 225 BeSP 16 Jan, 19 Feb; 168 BuSP, 192 Wilson NIAG 28 Feb.

Wood Duck: Buffalo NR 13-27 Dec, 17 Jan, 26 Feb; AmSP 20 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 29 Dec – 11 Jan; WoBSP 12 Jan; only reports.

Northern Shoveler: max 38, 20, 18 BWWTP 1, 26 Dec, 9 Jan; N Collins ERIE 26 Dec; Fredonia CHAU 12 Jan; only reports.

Gadwall: 22 BufH 3 Dec; max 23 Tifft NP 29 Dec; 11 NF 5 Jan; 5 Ellery ChauL 8 Jan; arr 2 Celoron ChauL 10 Feb; 12 BuSP 15 Feb.

Eurasian Wigeon: Celoron CHAU 15 Feb (DC); record early.

American Wigeon: max 18 Tifft NP 2 Dec; 5 NF 23 Dec; 1, arr 2, 15 Ellery ChauL 20 Jan, 12, 15 Feb; Waterport ORLE 14 Feb.

American Black Duck: 14 N Tonawanda NIAG 16 Dec; 16 Grand I NR 13 Jan; arr 10 Franklinville CATT 7 Feb; max 18 Elba GENE, 15 Fredonia CHAU 11 Feb.

Northern Pintail: WTSP 19 Dec; arr 4 DH, 2 BeSP 9 Feb; max 12 Celoron ChauL 15 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: 2 FNSP 1 Dec; 2 Cuba L ALLE 3 Dec; 4 Lyndon CATT 4 Dec; BWWTP 6, 9 Jan; Buffalo ERIE 10 Jan; 2 NF 19, 20 Jan; arr Celoron ChauL 19 Feb.

Canvasback: 1000 BuffH 19 Dec; max 5000 NFSP 29 Dec; 1452 BeSP 27 Jan; 2850 BuSP 4 Feb; 2 Cuba L ALLE 7 Feb; Machias CATT, BWWTP 9 Feb.

Redhead: max 500, 700 BufH 23 Dec, 13 Jan; 150 Celoron ChauL 6 Jan; 73 DH 5 Feb; 270 BeSP 20 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 15 BuSP 11 Dec; 15 Buffalo NR 2 Jan; N Collins ERIE 5 Jan; 3 BWWTP 6, 9 Jan; Cuba L ALLE 5 Feb; arr 15 Celoron ChauL 19 Feb.

Tufted Duck (R1): Buffalo NR 1-10 Dec (SB, KB), continuing from late Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 8000 BufH 26 Jan (JM).

Lesser Scaup: max 100 BufH 19 Dec; 4, 2 BWWTP 23 Dec, 9 Jan; arr 40 Celoron ChauL 19 Feb.

King Eider: no reports.

Harlequin Duck: 2-3 NFSP thru, regular location in recent years.

Surf Scoter: 1, 1, 1, 1 BufH 2, 21 Dec, 26 Jan, 12 Feb; max 5 DH 20 Dec; PB 2, 10 Feb; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 90 FNSP 17 Jan.

Black Scoter: max 2, 5 DH 20 Dec, 4 Feb; Youngstown NIAG 27 Dec; EvSP 5 Jan; BufH 24 Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: max 200 FNSP 1 Dec; max 200 PB 10 Feb.

Bufflehead: max 345 Buffalo NR 16 Dec.

Common Goldeneye: 700 NFSP 1 Dec; 900 Buffalo NR 2 Jan; max 100 Grand I NR 4 Feb; 100 Olean CATT 13 Feb.

Barrow's Goldeneye: PB 13 Jan – 20 Feb (RB, mob), rare.

Hooded Merganser: max 68 N Tonawanda NR 16 Dec; 50 NF 28 Dec.

Common Merganser: 193 BWWTP 9 Jan; max 200 Tonawanda NR 22 Jan; max 200 Wellsville ALLE 5 Feb (KR).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 555 FNSP 1 Dec.

Ruddy Duck: 6, 4 DH 3, 6 Dec; 2, 1 Cuba L ALLE 4, 18 Dec; BufH 5, 8 Dec; arr Celoron ChauL 19 Feb.

Pied-billed Grebe: reported from five locs Jan, Feb.

Horned Grebe: max 28 DH 5 Dec; 5 EvSP 5 Jan; Barcelona CHAU 16 Feb; Salamanca CATT 21 Feb.

Red-necked Grebe: DH 6 Dec; max 269 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec (WD), impressive

count; BufH 20 Dec; Youngstown NIAG 5, 6 Jan; Jamestown CHAU 17 Feb.

Eared Grebe: EvSP 5 Jan (JM), rare.

RAILS-LARIDS

American Coot: 2 DH 1-7 Jan; max 10 Clarence ERIE 5 Jan; BufH 24-28 Jan.

Killdeer: arr Tonawanda ERIE 10 Feb (JM), early; only report.

Dunlin: 3 NFSP 2 Dec, only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 974 BeSP 16 Dec; 950 Buffalo NR 3 Jan; fewer than usual.

Little Gull: 2, 1 Lewiston NR 1 Dec, 5 Jan; 1, 1 Buffalo NR 10 Dec, 28 Jan; only reports.

Iceland Gull: max 5 NFSP 18 Jan; fewer than usual.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 7 NFSP 1 Jan; fewer than usual.

Glaucous Gull: max 2 BufH 4 Feb; only nine other reports.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: max 25 FNSP 1 Dec; Olcott NIAG 2 Jan, 4 Feb; BufH 5 Feb; PB 10, 21 Feb; only reports beyond Dec.

Common Loon: DH 2, 18 Jan; Grand I NR 9 Jan; only reports beyond Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: 19 BufH 9 Jan, highest count beyond Dec.

Black Vulture: max 10 Lewiston NIAG 2 Dec; year-round location.

Turkey Vulture: 9 Fredonia CHAU 11 Dec; Arcade WYOM 22 Dec; 12-30 Clarence Center ERIE 1 – 31 Jan (GF), new winter roost location; 6 Lewiston NIAG 1-31 Jan; Collins ERIE 14 Jan; Hartland NIAG 22 Jan; 5, 14 Lancaster ERIE 5, 14 Feb; arr Tonawanda ERIE 9 Feb; increasing in winter.

Northern Goshawk: Elma ERIE 12 Jan (DH); only report.

Bald Eagle: max 11 Tonawanda ERIE 20 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: reported from 12 locations; max 4 Forestville CHAU 5 Jan (GV); good winter showing.

Rough-legged Hawk: average numbers.

Snowy Owl: max 4, 5 BufH 22 Dec, 22 Feb; reported from 4-5 other locations per month.

Long-eared Owl: OOWMA 1 Jan; Oakfield GENE 3 Jan; only reports.

Short-eared Owl: 2-3 Shelby ORLE thru; Amherst ERIE 1 Jan (JWa); max 5

Newstead ERIE 14 Jan (JM); Porter NIAG 1 Feb.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Newfane NIAG 15 Dec (JS); Porter NIAG 27 Dec (WD); INWR 1 Jan (NK, RB); Stiglmeier P ERIE 3-8 Feb (JK, mob); BuSP 7-15 Feb (AH); WTSP 10 Feb (BP); good showing.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 4 FNSP 2 Dec, 5 Jan; Cheektowaga ERIE 5 Jan; EvSP 8 Jan, 5 Feb; PG 18 Feb.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Buffalo ERIE 20 Dec; Gasport NIAG, Middleport NIAG 20 Jan; Porter NIAG 29 Jan; Holland ERIE 30 Jan; Corfu GENE 17 Feb; Portland CHAU 26 Feb; good winter showing.

Merlin: now regular.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: Tiffet NP 4 Dec (CM); last Olean CATT 9 Dec (JR).

Northern Shrike: average showing.

Fish Crow: Buffalo ERIE 4 Feb (JF); 2 Tonawanda NR 7 Feb (TK); consistent with increased reports in late winter and spring in recent years.

Common Raven: continued increase in northern portion of Reg.

Horned Lark: max 125 Bethany GENE 22 Jan.

Winter Wren: Orchard Park ERIE 15 Dec, 17 Jan; Arkwright CHAU 16 Dec; Wilson NIAG 17 Dec; HBWMA 27 Dec; only reports.

Marsh Wren: BeSP 16 Dec (JM); INWR 27 Dec (RD); rare in winter.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: NFSP 3, 12 Dec; only report.

Hermit Thrush: Wilson NIAG 14 Dec; Olcott NIAG 15 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 16 Dec; WTSP 17 Dec; INWR 26 Feb; only reports.

Gray Catbird: RWSP 7 Dec thru; BeSP 21 Dec, 14 Jan; 2 Porter NIAG 27 Dec; NFSP 3 Feb; decent winter showing.

Brown Thrasher: Cuba ALLE 1 Feb (KS), surprise winter find.

Bohemian Waxwing: Fredonia CHAU 27 Feb (GV), first County record; only report.

Cedar Waxwing: max 152 HBWMA 6 Feb.

American Pipit: last BufH 4 Dec.

Evening Grosbeak: 14 LBSP 5 Dec; 20 Ashford CATT 8 Dec; 11, 20 Wethersfield WYOM 15, 20 Dec; 40 Arkwright CHAU 25 Dec; max 26, 44 Machias CATT 26 Dec, 17 Feb; 10 Alfred ALLE 6 Jan; 12 Ischua

CATT 28 Jan; 12 Great Valley CATT 23 Feb; strong showing.
Common Redpoll: 50 WTSP 5 Dec; 37 Wilson NIAG 15 Dec; max 70 Attica WYOM 25 Dec; 40 Shelby ORLE 27 Dec; 60, 66 Newfane NIAG 7, 26 Jan; 18 Hartland NIAG 29 Jan; max 100 Yates ORLE 14, 23 Feb (WD); 20 BMAC 16 Feb.
Pine Siskin: 15 Hamburg ERIE 15 Dec; 30 Orangeville WYOM 23 Dec; 32 Wilson NIAG 1-18 Jan; 18 Alfred ALLE 8 Jan; 20 Orchard Park ERIE 6 Feb; max 46, 56 E Aurora ERIE 15, 24 Feb; 30 Wales ERIE 18 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: 1, 2, 1 Bethany GENE 6 Dec, 26 Jan, 28 Feb; max 30 Sheridan CHAU 6 Dec (SG, CV); 2 Yates ORLE 14 Feb; Sheldon WYOM 16 Feb; 3 Newstead ERIE 19 Feb.
Snow Bunting: 175 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 8 Dec; max 145, 550 Corfu GENE 12 Dec, 14 Feb (DB); 500, 150 Attica WYOM 28, 31 Dec; 110 Middlebury WYOM 11 Jan; 110, 170 Bethany GENE 26 Jan, 28 Feb; 125, 300 Yates ORLE 31 Jan, 14 Feb; 186 Somerset NIAG 14 Feb; 500 Sheldon WYOM 16 Feb; 200 E Aurora ERIE 16 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- WARBLERS

Chipping Sparrow: Orchard Park ERIE 3-22 Dec (SB); FLC 16 Dec (PC); Newfane NIAG 26, 27 Jan (JS); Rushford ALLE 27-

31 Jan, 14 Feb (KS); Wilson NIAG 13, 18 Feb (WD, BP); Portland CHAU 16-18 Feb (CH); more reports than usual.
Field Sparrow: TBNP 12, 20 Dec; Orangeville WYOM 26 Dec; Wellsville ALLE 30 Dec; RWNP 22 Jan; more reports than usual.
Savannah Sparrow: Hartland NIAG 22 Jan (JS), becoming less rare in winter.
Fox Sparrow: Tifft NP 14 Dec; Rushford ALLE 9 Jan thru (KS); only reports.
Swamp Sparrow: 2 Tifft NP 1 Jan; EvSP 8 Jan; only reports beyond Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 10 Bethany GENE 13 Jan; reported from seven other locations.
Red-winged Blackbird: arr in Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 45 Grand I ERIE 19 Jan, maximum prior to mid-Feb arrivals.
Rusty Blackbird: BuSP 12 Dec thru (AH), regular winter location in recent years.
Common Grackle: Tonawanda ERIE 16 Dec; 5 Celoron CHAU 6 Jan; Pendleton NIAG 26 Jan; only reports before Feb arrival.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Newfane NIAG 5 Jan (JS), 2nd January record.
Common Yellowthroat: TBNP 12, 20 Dec (SB), late.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: NF 21 Dec; max 8, 7, 12 BuSP 26 Dec, 12 Jan, 23 Feb (AH, TK); Shelby ORLE 27 Dec; Whitesville ALLE 27 Jan.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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An up-and-down winter 2018-19, generally on the warmer side, with snowfall in bursts and a bit below average total and some significant wind events late in the season. December was warm with snowfall about half normal, a stark contrast with November's cold. It was one of the warmest and least snowy Decembers on record. Still, each local Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was affected by some combination of cold and rain or snow on the count day plus the lingering effects of the very cold and snowy November, which pushed out many typical lingering

birds, especially waterfowl. Most lakes, ponds, and bays were largely ice-free for most of the month, but they had been frozen in November and again during cold snaps in December. Temperatures averaged 33.8°F, 3.8° above normal, and precipitation totaled 2.60", 0.03" below normal. Snowfall was 11.5", 10.3" below normal.

January continued the green grass look and mild feel through the 9th, with temperatures averaging 9° above normal. For the rest of the month, only five days reached normal highs, and four days dropped below 0°. Temperatures averaged 23.9°, 0.8° below normal. Precipitation totaled 2.56", 0.15" above normal, with snowfall at 32.8", 4.6" above normal. Snow fell on 24 of the 31 days of the month, with a record for the date of 7.8" on the 19th and more the next day. There were rain events on the 8th and the 23rd-24th. The snowfall in addition to the cold fluctuations led to bays and ponds freezing and thawing and to an increase in shore ice on Lake Ontario.

February brought a generally warm and windy ride. After a low of 0° on the 1st, temperatures spiked to 63° on the 4th. Days were about evenly split between above and below average, with a temperature average of 28.7°, 2.3° above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.91", 0.96" above normal, with half falling as rain and the larger events, wintry mixes of rain and sleet. Snowfall ended at 19.2", 2.3" below normal, but with a record for the date of 6.5" on the 27th. There were four wind events on the 8th, 12th-13th, 18th, and finally most serious on the 24th-26th, when gusts reached to 66 mph.

In general, this was a lackluster winter for birding. As noted in the weather summary, there were ups and downs, but overall it was just average. A major impact was the November deep freeze that seemed to push many potential lingerers out of the Region before the season began. Records posted to eBird were close to the same as for last winter at approximately 17,111 for December, 22,801 for January, and 19,348 for February. There were the usual additions of geneseebirds posts, the CBC data, and the annual January NY State Waterfowl Count. Each CBC was at least somewhat impacted by conditions on the count days, but ended up with high average species totals and with numbers of individuals increased from last year, though in the Rochester CBC case that mostly meant the American Crow roost was again found back inside the circle this year; that one species typically accounts for about 1/3 of the total count of individuals. New species for the local counts were: Greater White-fronted Goose and Orange-crowned Warbler for Letchworth-Silver Lake, Green Heron for Rochester, and Tufted Duck for Conesus-Hemlock. Record high counts for the CBCs were: Rochester – Pied-billed Grebe, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, Hermit Thrush, and Gray Catbird; Letchworth-Silver Lake – Redhead, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, and Bald Eagle; and Conesus-Hemlock – Sandhill Crane and Common Raven. Most water was open, yet waterfowl numbers were really high only in the Letchworth-Silver Lake area. There were similar comments through the season of birds being hard to find. Even toward

season's end, there was essentially no sign of movement of early spring migrants.

Moving right into the family groups, we start with all really expected waterfowl reported each month. Counts were generally low except for Redhead on Conesus Lake and Red-breasted Merganser off Hamlin Beach in December. Rarer reports included: Greater White-fronted Goose in December and February, Cackling Goose all season, Tufted Duck in December and January, and Barrow's Goldeneye in January and February at two typical locations. February arrivals were only Gadwall and Northern Pintail. The Waterfowl Count again hit the arrival of real winter, which resulted in various parts being done over most of a week in the various sectors. The total for species and individuals was very close to the average for the most recent 20 years. The only ducks above average were Long-tailed Duck and Red-breasted Merganser. Canada Goose numbers approached double their average and really were what drove the overall total to near normal. Shore ice had increased to well offshore after any time the wind blew from the north for an extended period. This hampered counts in some sectors.

There were no shorebird reports for the season. I do not recall the last occurrence of a total shutout. In December and January, there were some good concentrations of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls on the ponds and bays and modest numbers of the usual white-winged gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gull typical of winter here. By February, numbers of even these had dropped to lower than typical. We often look to Bonaparte's Gull for the possibility of accompanying rarer species, but Bonaparte's numbers were low, a 10 January departure date was normal, and there were only a couple of reports in February, and no reports of rarer species. A passing Parasitic Jaeger off Webster Park on 6 January was a nice surprise. In this general area of the new checklist order, up to 11 Sandhill Cranes were seen in the Ashley Road area of the Town of Livonia through 18 January, a record high count for the area and that late date. Loons and grebes continued the storyline of low numbers. An exception was several high counts of Red-necked Grebe along the south shore of Lake Ontario in the Towns of Parma and Hamlin, with the peak 804 and 1033 at two locations on 1 December and 123 on 30 December, high for that late. These high late-fall counts are a relatively recent trend. Double-crested Cormorant again lingered on Irondequoit Bay in numbers from 25 in mid-December to 17 through the Waterfowl Count.

Next, we can work through the rest of the non-passerine species. As a group, the diurnal raptors provided few special notes. Starting with the vultures, we have the usual winter roosts for Turkey Vulture and then a surprise Black Vulture spotted over Rochester by Andy Garland on 21 February. Bald Eagle numbers were good, though down a bit from last winter, with Irondequoit Bay again a good place to be sure to see birds. Another surprise was four reports of immature Northern Goshawks in December, but then no more for the rest of the season. It was also a low number season for Rough-legged Hawk. The official Braddock Bay hawk watch did not start until after season's end.

Among the owls, we had the usual good numbers of Eastern Screech-Owl on the CBCs. It was an off year for Snowy Owl; still there were birds each month, with over 20 individuals reported in January. The Short-eared Owl surveys out of the DEC office in Avon started great, reaching a new record high tally of 33 on the 29 January count. Weather was a problem on several of the count days, with both counts in February cancelled, though birders out on other days reported up to a maximum of 16 individuals in the Nations Road IBA. There were more Northern Saw-whet Owl reports than usual in December from several locations. Then February brought the best start in recent years to the annual monitoring of roosting, migrating owls in the Owl Woods area, with 11 reports for Northern Saw-whet Owl and one Long-eared Owl.

Among the woodpeckers, 3-4 Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in Durand-Eastman Park in Rochester on 14 December and continued to be seen in the same area through the season. Lingering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were present in good numbers, with about 12 in December and five still being found through most of February. Our regular three falcon species were all reported in good numbers each month of the season.

Moving on to the passerines, it was interesting to look at the birds lingering into a warm December and beyond, especially after the really cold November. The general feeling was that passerines were hard to find. Yet the list of half hardies reported was long and the numbers reported were good. For December, we had: four Eastern Phoebes, about 15 Winter Wrens, a Marsh Wren, three Ruby-crowned Kinglets, many Eastern Bluebirds, 16 Hermit Thrushes, five Gray Catbirds, four Eastern Towhees, two Chipping Sparrows, four Field Sparrows, many Fox, White-crowned, and White-throated Sparrows, a few blackbirds, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow-rumped Warblers—certainly a good list. In January, wintering passerines seemed even harder to find, yet again the list of half hardies was little changed and numbers of individuals still good. Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat were missed, while Vesper and Savannah Sparrows and Pine Warbler were added. February's deep cold snaps and periods of heavy snows had some effects, but our wintering half hardies mainly persisted, with only Eastern Phoebe and Yellow-rumped Warbler dropped and Gray Catbird and Eastern Meadowlark added. Regular irruptive species saw Northern Shrike numbers fair, no sign of a Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion, and only a lone Bohemian Waxwing reported in early February. Lapland Longspur was scarce through the season, while Snow Bunting was occasionally seen in high numbers.

Through the fall there were tantalizing, scattered reports of winter finches, giving rise to hopes for later numbers. But December brought only a dozen reports of Evening Grosbeak, a lone Pine Grosbeak, some flocks of Common Redpoll, a lone Red Crossbill, and modest numbers of Pine Siskin. January and February saw the same story continuing, with a lone Hoary Redpoll with the Commons in the Town of Hamlin in January and with another lone Pine Grosbeak found in February.

Species totals for the months and their 10-year averages were: December – 132 (131.3), January – 127 (126.7), and February – 125 (117.7).

For other notes of interest, we start with the continued field summaries from Jim Adams' regular surveys in Oatka Creek Park. Diversity remained close to or a bit below average. The creek remained high, impacting waterbird records, and dying ash trees plus construction and logging along the creek are having negative impacts. Generally, his notes mirror the inputs from others for the season. Next, the Great Backyard Bird Count in mid-February again added 100 or so to the usual observer list. Finally some thoughts relating to using care with the raw eBird data in trying to assess numbers of observations or sites. Virginia Rail in January presents a good example. An individual was noted in Sherry Pond marsh in Durand-Eastman Park on 1 January and another two in the Deep Pond area of Mendon Ponds Park on 2 January. Then from 22-29 January, there were about 23 reports from the Quaker Pond part of Mendon Ponds Park, with various descriptions of the sites and with five pins on the eBird map. In fact this was generally one bird (other than a single report suggesting two) all from the south end of the pond, NOT the traditional wintering location noted most years. Only one report plotted the pin at that spot; the rest were at spots as far as 0.8 miles north! It can take some effort to derive details from the content of databases.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB-HW** – at or from Braddock Bay hawk watch; **CHCBC** – Conesus-Hemlock CBC 29 Dec; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **G** – T Greece; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet, MONR; **IB-S** – Irondequoit Bay south end, including LaSalle Landing P area; **LSCBC** – Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC on 15 Dec; **M (OW)** – owl woods area off Manitou Beach Rd on W side of Braddock Bay; **MP** – Mendon Pd P, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd; **NMWMA (CR)** – Carncross Rd area flooded fields; **NMWMA (MR)** – Morgan Rd marshes area; **NMWMA (VDS)** – woods and wetlands along Van Dyne Spoor; **RCBC** – Rochester Christmas Bird Count on 16 Dec; **SBotP** – Sandy Bottom P, T Honeoye, ONTA; **SPt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **WP** – Webster P, MONR.

WATERFOWL - GREBES

Snow Goose: max 8500 T Galen WAYN 3 Dec (DO); 2100 N. Avon LIVI 3 Dec (MW); 3000 Honeoye Falls 9 Jan (BCar); last 60 Geneseo 20 Jan (JK); 125 NMWMA (AR) 8 Feb (LC-B, SBe).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 HB 2Dec (JiM, LMa, RRe); Mt Morris area 15, 17, 20 Dec (JK, DBe, MW); variable to 45 PtB 10-23 Feb (8 mob), on border between Regions 1 & 2.

Cackling Goose: 42 rep, ~ 68 ind 18 loc Dec (28+ obs); max 11 Kings Bend P,

The Kingbird 2019 June; 69 (2)

Pittsford 31 Dec (BCar); 2 BB-HW 14 Feb (KGr); Kings Bend P, Pittsford 14 Feb (RW); Bear Creek Harbor WAYN 20 Feb (MG).

Canada Goose: max 8000 Mt Morris Dam 18 Jan (JK).

Mute Swan: max 242 IBO area 2 Feb (GF); 75 SPT 7 Feb (MG).

Trumpeter Swan: 20 NMWMA (AR) 8-9 Dec; 14 NMWMA (CR) 3 Jan; 4 IB 4-22 Feb (mob).

Tundra Swan: max 1015 NMWMA (VDS) 5 Jan (NK).

Wood Duck: 5 T Galen WAYN 1 Dec; Caledonia 2 Feb (DT); Bear Creek WAYN 8 Feb (LKah); scarce in winter.

N. Shoveler: 2 HANA 8 Jan (RRe); 8 IBO 2 Feb (JGe, SJ, RRe); scarce in winter.

Gadwall: max 62 Northrup Crk, G 5 Jan (AGu); arr 14 BB14 Feb (GL, RC).

Am. Wigeon: last IB – S 11 Jan (RB).

Mallard: max 630 HB-YC 8 Dec.

Am. Black Duck: max 107 CL 21 Jan (MW), low max.

N. Pintail: last CL 21 Jan (MW); arr 11 IBO & 31 NMWMA (SCU) 10 Feb (JMi; LKah).

Green-winged Teal: max 8 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 2, 23 Feb (DT, RSt).

Canvasback: max 500 CL 2 Feb (DSh); 150 SPT. 23 Feb (JMcGo, LS).

Redhead: max 4500 2 Jan (MW).

Ring-necked Duck: 580 Hemlock L P 14 Dec (BH).

Tufted Duck: 1 m CL 29 Dec- CHCBC 2 Jan (JK, RSt, 28+ oth obs, ph), 6th Reg record.

Greater Scaup: max 1500 SPT 23 Feb.

Lesser Scaup: max 250 CL 29 Dec & Hemlock 1 P 1 Jan.

White-winged Scoter: max 250 SPT 23 Feb, low; generally scarce.

Long-tailed Duck: 1000 SPT 23 Feb; max 1800 mouth of Genesee R 24 Jan (RSp).

Bufflehead: max 60 CL 8 Dec, low max.

Com. Goldeneye: max 250 IBO-Newport marina 20 Jan.

Barrow's Goldeneye: arr 1 m PtB 13-31 Jan, 1-20 Feb (RB, LBer, mob, ph); 1 f

SPT 26-29 Jan, 8-28 Feb (DC, JWi, mob, ph).

Com. Merganser: max 2000 IB-N 17 Feb (PMar).

Red-breasted Merganser: 1000 HB 1 Dec (BCar); max 2063 SB-Fairhaven, Waterfowl Count 17 Jan (M&JT, JCh).

Ruddy Duck: max 15 SBotP ONT 5 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: 804 HB-YC boat ramp 1 Dec (R&SSp); max 1033 North Ave Overlook, T Parma 1 Dec (R&SSp); 123 HB-YC boat ramp 30 Dec (AGu), late for number.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: DEP 1 Jan (5 obs); 2 MP-Deep Pd 2 Jan (NK); MP-Quaker Pd S 22-29 Jan (MG), 20+ oth obs, ph), *intro*.

Am. Coot: max 29 IB 23 Dec, low.

Sandhill Crane: max 11 Ashley Rd, T Livonia LIVI 29 Dec (LBer, RB, CGi), 5, 9 Jan (BHo, TB).

Parasitic Jaeger: off WP 6 Jan (RSp), unusual date.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 94 IB-S 15 Dec, low max; last IBO 10 Jan, typical; 3, 23 Feb, unusual at dates.

Ring-billed Gull: max 6500 BB-ES 16 DEC-RCBC (R&SSp); 1400 Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 10 Jan (W&MR).

Herring Gull: max 5259 Edgemere Dr, G 26 Dec (RB); 3500 Long Pd, G 1 Jan (AGu); 1900 Buck Pd, G 5 Jan (AGu); 1700 BB 17 Feb (BriM); good numbers.

Iceland Gull: ~ 28 ind 12 loc 8-31 Dec; max 6 Cranberry Pd, G 29 Dec (AGu); ~ 9 ind 8 loc 1-27 Jan; ~ 25 ind 7 loc Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ~ 12 ind 10 loc 10-31 Dec; 7 ind 6 loc 1-29 Jan; ~ 8 ind 3 loc 4-24 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: ~ 9 ind 6 loc 8-31 Dec; ~ 8 ind 7 loc 1-23 Jan; ~ 6 ind 4 loc 2-23 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 63 IB 7 Feb (GL).

LOONS - FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: max 39 HB 1 Dec; highest in Jan & Feb 4 & 6, respectively.

Com. Loon: max 15 SPT 30 Dec, low.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 25 IB-W 15 Dec; 24 IB 9 Jan, good number for date; IB 5 Feb, few reports in Feb.

BLACK VULTURE (R2): over Rochester 21 Feb (AGa), few Feb reports.

Turkey Vulture: max 35 Hickory P, T Bergen GENE 27 Dec, typical near winter gatherings.

N. Goshawk: single imms – DEP 1 Dec (KRy); West Walworth WAYN 1 Dec (MG); DEP 16 Dec (MT); Johnson Rd, Churchville 31 Dec (BriM); good showing for recent years; no more rep for season.

Bald Eagle: approx 80 ind Dec; 232 lines eBird Jan; 227 lines eBird Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Stoner Hill Rd, T West Sparta LIVI 31 Dec (JGo); WP 7 Feb (DTe), unusual site for winter

Rough-legged Hawk: ~ 7 ind 7 loc 9-25 Dec; ~ 7 ind 6 loc 1, 22-31Jan; ~ 20 ind 14 loc Feb.

E. Screech-Owl: 75 RCBC 16 Dec; 35 CHCBC 29 Dec; typical totals.

Snowy Owl: ~ 11 ind 11+ loc Dec; ~ 48 rep, 20+ ind 13+ loc 1-26 Jan; 7 ind 6 loc 5-20Feb.

Long-eared Owl: M (OW) 16 Feb, first of the year by owl counters in usual roost area, early.

Short-eared Owl: 32 DEC survey out of Avon 4 Dec; record max 33 DEC survey out of Avon 29 Jan; month max 16 Nations Rd IBA 1 Feb (GL, LH); weather cancelled DEC surveys in Feb.

N. Saw-whet Owl: M (OW) 8, 11 Dec (TLe, JF, TS, LBer), Torpey Hill, Bergen Swamp 20 Dec (NK); Quayle Rd ONTA 29 Dec (NK); more than usual for Dec; 11 rep M (OW) Feb (mob), early for so many in this roost and count area, notes from Jim Adams.

Belted Kingfisher: total 23 ind 23 loc 1-26 Jan, many for mid-winter.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 3-4 DEP 14 Dec (BMai, JSI) thru, mob, many ph; no reports from other areas.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total ~ 12 ind 10 loc 6-26 Dec; 14 ind 12 loc Jan; 5 ind 5 loc 3-20 Feb; good numbers for winter.

Am. Kestrel: totals – 28 in Dec, 23 in Jan, and 10 in Feb; slow decrease thru.

Merlin: totals – 25 in Dec, 21 in Jan, and 17 in Feb; good for winter.

Peregrine Falcon: totals – 11 in Dec, 10 in Jan, and 20 in Feb.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

E. Phoebe: Ellison P, Penfield 9 Dec (JiM, LM); Oatka Crk P 9 Dec (JAd); Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 13 Dec (JWi); DEP 15 Dec (RRy); SBotP 1, 4 Jan (KGa, BH, ph); usually rare in winter.

N. Shrike: ~ 17 ind 14 loc 4-28 Dec; ~ 12 ind 11 loc Jan; ~ 20 ind 16 loc Feb.

Am. Crow: max 24200 RCBC 16 Dec Feb, early winter roost back in count circle.

FISH CROW (R2): 1-7 Northgate Plaza area, G off and on thru.

Horned Lark: max 90 Stewart Rd LIVI 28 Feb, low.

Winter Wren: ~35 ind 22 loc Dec; max 6 DEP 16 Dec (AGa, DSh); 18 ind 12 loc Jan; 9 ind 8 loc 2-24 Feb.

Marsh Wren: Beatty Pt, G 16 Dec (GL).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: total 26 ind 12 loc Jan, half of last Jan number.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: BB-ES 14-16 Dec (GL, 5 oth obs); Jenks Rd, T Lima LIVI 29 Dec (RB); Hemlock L area 29 Dec (KW); IBO 19 Jan (CV); HB 4 Feb (DT); scarce in winter.

E. Bluebird: 24 Hinch Rd, G 16 Dec (R&SSp), many for loc & date; 16 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 2 Feb (DT).

Hermit Thrush: total 16 ind 7 loc Dec; max 6 DEP 16 Dec (DSh); 6 ind 5 loc 1-22 Jan; Beatty Pt, G 2 Feb; M (OW) 3 Feb; max 5 WP 7 Feb (DT); WP 20 Feb; good numbers thru.

Am. Robin: max 800 Jefferson Rd, Rochester 13 Dec (PW); widespread thru, many counts in 100s.

Gray Catbird: 5 ind 5 loc 3-23 Dec; near Fairport 20 Feb (MG); scarce in winter.

European Starling: max 25000 North Rush 15 Dec (NK).

Bohemian Waxwing: HB 4 Feb (DT), only report.

Cedar Waxwing: max 128 Honeoye L area 29 Dec; generally in low numbers.

Evening Grosbeak: ~ 47 ind 9 loc 1-20 Dec; max 16 T Ontario WAYN 1 Dec (NC); 4-6 Penfield 13, 26-31 Jan, 1-2 Feb (DR, sev oth obs); 2 Rochester 27 Jan (APe); Marion WAYN 4 Feb (DMcK); best showing in many years.

Pine Grosbeak: DEP 1 Dec (KR); 4 HB 4 Feb (DT).

Com. Redpoll: max 225 H 14 Dec (AGu); flock persisted in area thru.

HOARY REDPOLL (R2): H 23-28 Jan (AGu, CGi, MG, LBer).

Red Crossbill: DEP 16 Dec (JPow, RSt).

Pine Siskin: max 54 DEP-W 15 Dec (AGa).

Lapland Longspur: max 35 Nations Rd IBA 27 Jan; relative scarce this season.

Snow Bunting: max 1000 Jenks Rd, T Lima LIVI 30 Dec (BCar); 560 Lakeshore Rd ORLE 18 Feb (KGr).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

E. Towhee: 4 ind 4 loc 2-20 Dec; 1 f Springwater LIVI 19 Jan (BH, ph); Cook & Redman Rds, H 2 Feb (AGu); ShakerHeights WAYN 18 Feb (NS); Palmyra WAYN 22 Jan, 20 Feb (TC); usually scarce in winter.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 63 Nations Rd IBA 29 Jan, low max.

Chipping Sparrow: Irondequoit 16 Dec (SG, ph); Fowlerville LIVI 17 Dec (SBu, KMCC); Woodbrooke Rd, T Victor ONTA 27, 30 Jan, 13 Feb (BBer); rare in winter.

Field Sparrow: 4 ind 4 loc 2-23 Dec; 3 ind 3 loc 10, 18, 20, 28 Jan; T Livonia LIVI 10-11 Feb (TB); 18-19 Feb (SGo); rare in winter.

Vesper Sparrow: Nations Rd IBA 12-13 Jan (DT, BCar, ph); Jacobs Rd, H 28-29 Jan, 1 Feb (AGu, ph, 6 oth obs, DT), rare in winter.

Savannah Sparrow: 4, 2 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds, T Leicester LIVI 24, 28 Jan; Jacobs Rd area, H 28-29 Jan; max 5 T West Sparta LIVI 19 Feb (DT); scarce & local in winter.

Fox Sparrow: DEP-Zoo Rd 5 Dec (CGi, SG); DEP-W 16 Dec (AGa, DSh); DEP 7 Jan (CGi, RRe, ET); Purcell Rd, T Canadice ONTA 21, 29 Jan, 15, 27 Feb (BH); North Rose WAYN 27-28 Jan (MG, KGa); Mil-Benski Farm WAYN 17-27 Feb (LC-B, SBe); rare in winter.

White-throated Sparrow: 438 lines in eBird Jan, illustration of good numbers wintering.

White-crowned Sparrow: 112 lines in eBird Jan, illustration of good numbers wintering.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 85 T Riga MONR 2 Feb (DT).

E. Meadowlark: Nations Rd IBA 3 Feb (JGo), only rep.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 200 Jeffords RD, T Rush MONR 13 Feb (BCar).

Rusty Blackbird: Fowlerville Rd, T Avon MONR 3 Dec, only rep.

blackbird species: max 2000 T Victor ONTA 1 Dec; blackbirds generally scarce this winter.

Orange-crowned Warbler: LSLCBC 15 Dec (DBa), 1st for CBC.

Com. Yellowthroat: T Victor ONTA 21 Dec (JPow). Conesus In 6 Dec (MW).

Pine Warbler: HB 14 Jan, 4 Feb (DT), rare in winter.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 5 old railroad bed, G 16 Dec (PD, DBem); max 5 Owen Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 17 Jan (MT).

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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At Ithaca, December 2018 was warmer and drier than normal. Daily low temperatures averaged 24.4°F, 2.9° above normal. Daily high temperatures averaged 36.6°, 0.8° above normal. Total precipitation was 2.19", 0.11" less than normal. Total snowfall was 6.4", 6.1" less than normal. Snow depth never exceeded 2". January was colder and wetter than normal. Daily lows averaged 12.1°, 3.3° below normal. Daily highs averaged 29.9°, 1.4° below normal. Total precipitation was 3.22", 1.14" more than normal. Snowfall was 18.0", 0.4" more than normal. Maximum snow depth was 12" on 21 January. February was slightly warmer and was drier than normal. Daily lows averaged 17.4°, 0.9° above normal and daily highs averaged 34.4°, 0.4° above normal. Total precipitation was 1.28", 0.7" less than normal. Total snowfall was 7.3", 6.9" less than normal. Maximum snow depth was 5" on 1 February. By 5 February, the snow was gone and did not exceed 2" until 28 February when it reached 4".

Greater White-fronted Geese were the big news makers with flocks appearing on Seneca, Canandaigua, Keuka, and Cayuga Lakes. Reuben Stoltzfus found the largest flock of 43 birds on Keuka Lake at Champlin Park in Hammondsport. Also notable were the two Ross's Geese at Seneca Lake State Park that Kyle Gage found. A **Tufted Duck** was on Cayuga Lake at Ithaca in mid-January. An Eared Grebe was reported just once at its usual location in Cayuga Lake's Aurora Bay. Several waterfowl hybrids were reported: Snow X Canada Goose, Canvasback X Redhead, Redhead X Ring-necked Duck, and Redhead X scaup sp. High counts were reported for Trumpeter Swan, Redhead, and Common Merganser.

There was little exciting to report in the Rails to Tropicbirds portion of this report. Observers found high counts of Sandhill Cranes and Glaucous Gulls. Hybrid gulls included Herring X Lesser Black-backed, Herring X Glaucous, and Herring X Great Black-backed.

In the Loons to Parrots section of the report, there were no unusual species for the Region. Fifty Turkey Vultures over Trumansburg was a winter high count for the Region.

In the Flycatchers to Snow Buntings section, a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** on 8 December at East Shore Park in Ithaca was the bird of the season for the Region. Chris Wood found the only Bohemian Waxwing reported from the Region. This one was in Groton. It was a decent season for winter finches with many reports of Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll (with a couple Hoary Redpolls mixed in), and Pine Siskin. There was just one report each of Red and White-winged Crossbill. In addition to the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, half-hardy species included Eastern Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, and Gray Catbird. High counts

were reported for Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, American Robin, European Starling, House Sparrow, and Pine Siskin.

In the New World Sparrows to Cardinalids section of the report, a **Vesper Sparrow** lingering into early December was the most unusual report. Ken Rosenberg found the bird at the Bluegrass Lane Natural Area near Ithaca. Other half-hardies were Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. High counts were reported for Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow.

It seemed like there was an unusually high number of low counts, which is to say that the maximum count reported for many species was unusually low. These species may deserve special attention to see if their low numbers continue in future years. The species were Ruffed Grouse, American Coot, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Horned Lark, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, and House Finch.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CanL** – Canandaigua L, ONTA; **CygL** – Cayuga L; **ESP** – East Shore P, TOMP; **HH** – Hog Hole, TOMP; **Ith** –

Ithaca; **Lfp** – Lakefront P, ONTA; **MSPd** – Mill St Pd, CHEM; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MtP** – Mt Pleasant, TOMP; **NE Itha** – Northeast Ithaca; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **TCov** – T Covert, SENE; **TDry** – T Dryden; **TFay** – T Fayette, SENE; **TL** – T Lansing, TOMP; **TSF** – T Seneca Falls, SENE.

WATERFOWL--PIGEON

Snow x Canada Goose: CygL, T Varick SENE 16 Dec (TL); CygL, T Varick SENE 9 Feb (JMc, LSa).
Ross's Goose: 2 SLSP 22-23 Feb (KG, ph).
Greater White-Fronted Goose: 1-35 SLSP 24 Jan-11 Feb (mob, ph); 10 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 8 Feb (Donna Carter, ph); 1-32 City Pier ONTA 11-23 Feb (mob, ph); max 43 Champlin Beach P STEU 13 Feb (Reuben Stoltzfus, ph), high; 6 Mud Lock CAYU 16 Feb (SBI, JMc, ph); CygL SENE 25 Feb (TL, ph).
Trumpeter Swan: max 20 MNWR 8 Dec (WBI), high.
Wood Duck: last HH 8 Dec; MSPd 4 Jan-9 Feb; arr 2 Ith Reservoir TOMP 15 Feb (JGK), early.
Northern Shoveler: CygL, TSF 9-12 Dec; Mark Twain SP 27 Dec; Myers Pt TOMP 12-16 Jan; 2 CygL, TL 14 Jan; MSPd 27 Jan-3 Feb.
Green-winged Teal: Champlin Beach P STEU 6-15 Dec; max 3-5 N Mill Pd CAYU 8 Dec-13 Jan; MSPd 19-21 Jan; Dresden Overlook YATE 6 Feb; Deep Run P ONTA 16-17 Feb; Ith 25 Feb; Frontenac P CAYU 16 Feb.
Redhead: max 100,000 SLSP 7 Feb (DK), high.
Canvasback x Redhead: HH 27 Jan (JMc!, LSa); Geneva 16 Feb (TH, LK!, ph, TL); SLSP 20 Feb (DDo, DWh!).
Redhead x Ring-Necked Duck: Geneva 16 Feb (TH, LK!, ph, TL).
TUFTED DUCK: CygL, Ith 13-22 Jan (mob).
Redhead x scaup (sp.): LfP 9 Feb (JMc, LSa).
Black Scoter: 2 CanL 14 Dec (BH!), late.
Long-tailed Duck: max 25 Warren W Clute Memorial P SCHU 2 Dec; 25 LfP 14 Dec.
Common Merganser: max 2000 Seneca L SENE 24-25 Jan (KG, TL), high.
Ruffed Grouse: max 2 Boggy Bottom TOMP 14 Dec; 2 Monkey Run TOMP 28 Feb, low.
Red-necked Grebe: Salt Pt Nature Preserve TOMP 10 Dec; 2 CygL SP 23 Dec; Varick Winery SENE 12 Jan; 2 Skaneateles L CAYU 26 Jan.

Eared Grebe: Aurora Bay, CygL CAYU 26 Jan (ADo, KR!, TSc).

Rock Pigeon: max 500 T Ith TOMP 3 Jan (AM), high.

RAILS--LARIDS

American Coot: max 200 CanL 30 Jan-16 Feb, low.

Sandhill Crane: max 100 MNWR 1 Dec (SBI, JMc, BW), high; last MNWR 30 Dec; arr 2 T Chemung CHEM 6 Feb (BH!), early.

Killdeer: arr Watkins Glen High School SCHU 16 Feb; Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 16 Feb.

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Frontenac Harbor Marina CAYU 1 Dec; max 17 CygL SP 2 Dec; Wayne's Pt CAYU 3 Dec; Allen H Treman Marina SP 16 Dec; SLSP 10-11 Feb.

Iceland Gull: max 9 ESP 19 Feb.

Herring x Lesser Black-Backed Gull: StP 20 Feb (TL, ph); ESP 21 Feb (TL, JMc, ph).

Glaucous Gull: max 6 StP 26 Feb (TL), high.

Herring x Glaucous Gull: 2 SLSP 2 Feb (JMc, LSa).

Herring x Great Black-Backed Gull: StP 11 Dec (JMc, LSa); ESP 10-27 Feb (mob, TL, ph).

LOONS--WOODPECKERS

Red-throated Loon: CygL, Ith TOMP 2-8 Dec; Owasco L Inlet 14 Dec; 2 Seneca L SCHU 2 Feb; City Pier, CanL 22 Feb.

Black Vulture: 3 Taughannock Falls SP 4-31 Jan; Stevenson Rd Compost Piles 4-7 Jan; NE Ith 9 Jan.

Turkey Vulture: 50 Trumansburg 27 Dec (SKr), high.

Golden Eagle: MtP TOMP 23 Feb.

Northern Harrier: max 3 T Lodi SENE 20 Dec; 3 TFay 3 Feb; 3 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 9 Feb, low.

Northern Goshawk: Ith Farmers Market TOMP 1 Jan.

Red-shouldered Hawk: NE Ith 2 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 2 MtP TOMP 7 Dec; 2 MNWWR 17 Dec; 2 Boyer Creek Farm 22 Dec & 23 Feb; 2 T Fremont STEU 23 Dec; 2 T Howard STEU 23 Dec; 2 TL 8 Feb, low.

Long-eared Owl: TFay 24 Dec.

Northern Flicker: max 5 LfP 27 Jan; 5 TCov 14 Dec, low.

FLYCATCHERS—FINCHES

Eastern Phoebe: Ith 2 Dec-19 Jan; MNWR 5 Jan.

Blue Jay: max 27 Hammond Hill TOMP 14 Feb, low.

Horned Lark: max 90 TFay 10 Jan, low.

Tufted Titmouse: max 22 NE Ith 1 Jan (JI), high.

Brown Creeper: max 4 HH 21 Dec, low.

Carolina Wren: max 6 Ith 8 Jan (DN), high.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (R3): ESP 8 Dec (mob!).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 5 Cornell University 4 Dec; 5 Wyers Pt SENE 16 Dec, low.

Hermit Thrush: TL 1 Dec; TDry 1 Dec; Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 2 Dec; TDry 5 Dec; Ontario Pathways ONTA 21 Feb.

American Robin: max 885 T Manchester ONTA 4 Jan (Dave Spier), high.

Gray Catbird: Ith 2 Dec; TSF 9 Dec; TCov 9 Dec; Palmer Woods TOMP 1 Jan; MNWR 12 Jan; TDry 12 Jan; Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 13 Jan.

European Starling: max 5000 Ith 12 Jan (LMcGo), high.

Bohemian Waxwing: Groton 24 Jan (CWo!).

Cedar Waxwing: max 75 T Enfield 24 Feb, low.

House Sparrow: max 200 TDry 27 Dec (LMcGo), high.

Evening Grosbeak: max 79 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 15 Dec.

House Finch: max 60 T Waterloo SENE 9 Dec, low.

Common Redpoll: max 300 MtP TOMP 12 Dec-7 Jan.

Hoary Redpoll: MtP TOMP 7 Dec-13 Jan (mob); T Sempronius CAYU 15 Dec (mob).

Red Crossbill: TDry 23 Dec.

White-winged Crossbill: TDry 30 Jan.

Pine Siskin: max 115 TDry 4 Jan (JMc), high.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Ith 11 Dec; T Erwin STEU 5 Jan; South Bristol ONTA 2 Feb.

Chipping Sparrow: 1-2 NE Ith 31 Dec-27 Jan (JI, KR), high; T Manchester ONTA 10-22 Jan; TCov 12 Jan; TFay 14 Jan.

Field Sparrow: Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve SENE 9 Dec; TFay 15-23 Dec; TSF 22 Dec; max 2 Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 30 Dec (MF); 1-2 TFay 9-28 Feb (JMc, LSa); 2 T Ovid SENE 20 Feb (JA, KG, LM), high.

Vesper Sparrow (R3): BLNA 1-2 Dec (KR!).

Savannah Sparrow: max 6 Seneca Iron Works SENE 15 Jan (DK), high.

Fox Sparrow: TDry 2 Dec; BLNA 4 Dec; Sapsucker Woods TOMP 4 Dec; TDry 4 Dec-21 Jan; Robert Trent Jones Golf Course TOMP 5 Dec.

Swamp Sparrow: max 7 BLNA 15 Dec (KR), high.

White-throated Sparrow: max 32 T Starkey YATE 20 Feb (TSh), high.

Eastern Meadowlark: T Ulysses TOMP 21 Feb; T Middlesex YATE 22 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: BLNA 1-2 Dec; MNWR 21 Dec.

Common Grackle: T Aurelius CAYU 1 Dec; TDry 4 Dec; T Ith TOMP 9 Dec; Horseheads 24 Jan; 2-4 Corning 16-18 Feb; 2 T Corning STEU 18 Feb.

Common Yellowthroat: T Ith 1 Jan; 2 MNWR 5 Jan.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 2 Ith 27 Jan.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

A report was not received this season.

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Weather-wise the winter of 2018–‘19 was quite average. Each month tracked close to its historic average temperature, diverging by only a degree or less. In Syracuse, December stood out mainly because the amount of snowfall was well below average (18" less than normal). Throughout most of the Region snow depth rarely surpassed one foot. Unsurprisingly, the exception was the Adirondacks where Gary Lee reported as much as 4' on the ground in Old Forge by late February. Although the small inland lakes were iced-over for much of the period, ice cover on larger lakes waxed and waned. Some nearshore areas on Lake Ontario partially froze at the end of January, thawed and then re-froze towards the end of February. According to Bill Purcell, the eastern end of Oneida Lake didn't freeze over until the second week of January.

To some degree the lack of ice on larger water bodies allowed waterfowl to forage further from shore and away from places where they could be easily tallied and contributed to relatively low waterfowl counts in some traditional hotspots. The exceptions were Oswego Harbor and the east end of Onondaga Lake. In fact, the former area became particularly productive after the third week of January. Lack of snow on the ground during the time window when CBCs take place led to some unimpressive bird tallies, at least in Count circles that possess no large open lakes. Many participants complained that songbirds weren't concentrating at feeders, there were no birds in the woods, and the manure-spread fields lacked Snow Buntings and Horned Larks. Unsurprisingly, the lack of wild food in the Region's forests depressed the number of wintering songbirds. Expected half-hardies were thin on the ground and winter specialties were hard to come by. Quite probably the lack of forest mast led to a smaller prey base for raptors and shrikes.

Many birders waited for the Snow Goose migration to get underway and were largely disappointed, as the species mostly bypassed our Region this period. Best showing was 1040 that flew over Oswego on 16 December. A flock of 31 Greater White-fronted Geese was a great find by Gerry Case at Green Lakes State Park on 16 February. The flock remained through the 23rd of the month and many birders got to see them. Also, at Green Lakes State Park, Robert Reynolds photographed an oddly-plumaged goose presumed to be a Snow X Canada Goose hybrid. Most Tundra Swan sightings came from Oneida Lake, with a high count of 67 at Brewerton on 1 January. The numbers of

wintering dabbling ducks were especially low, and no rarities were reported. Predictably, diving duck numbers and diversity were better. A maximum number of 49 Canvasbacks at Onondaga Lake on 2 January is the best showing in a few years for that species. Tallies of *Aythya* ducks were not as notable with maximum numbers of Greater Scaup topping out at 800. A gorgeous adult male **King Eider** was found by Gregg Dashnau and Kevin McGann on 2 February at Oswego Harbor. It remained through the period and attracted scores of birders. By contrast, an immature male Harlequin Duck discovered by Mickey Scilingo on 24 February at the same location was not relocated. A decent maximum number of 2000 Long-tailed Ducks was tallied at Oswego Harbor on 3 February. All three scoter species were represented this period and it was excellent year at the harbor for White-winged. On 3 February Matthew Brown found and photographed a likely Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser hybrid at Port Ontario. Unfortunately, the unusual duck was not relocated after the day of discovery. A respectable maximum count of 2000 Red-breasted Mergansers came from Fair Haven on 19 December, but indiscriminate duck hunting from behind the east/west breakwall continues.

There were three reports of Killdeer this period. The last one on February 24 in Durhamville was undoubtably a returning migrant, but one at DeRuyter on 28 December and another in Syracuse on 5 February, likely represented wintering birds. Birders found the diversity and overall number of gulls this winter very disappointing. Gregg Dashnau found a Little Gull and an immature Black-legged Kittiwake at Oswego Harbor on 31 January. Neither lingered beyond that very windy last day of 2018. Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seldom encountered during the period. At the Phoenix dam on 10 February Bill Purcell found an Iceland Gull he considered a candidate for the *glaucopterus* subspecies that inhabits northern Europe and lacks gray markings in the wingtips. It is difficult to clinch the ID under field conditions.

A single Black-crowned Night-Heron was encountered several times on the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk between 3-13 January by Deborah Dohne. In recent years we've had a more consistent presence of the species at that location. Though continuing to be scarce away from the traditional Jamesville-Fayetteville area, Turkey Vultures were present in southern Oneida County in the Town of Kirkland where they were seen almost daily. There were only two reports of Golden Eagles this period—both from December. At least through the first week of February, a pair of Northern Goshawks were reliable visitors to Linda Salter's property near the Hamlet of Sheds in Madison County. The Goshawks are thought to breed in an adjacent state forest and hunt the songbirds that visit her well-stocked bird feeders. The number of wintering Bald Eagles on Onondaga Lake was impressive this season. This period a maximum number of 99 were counted at one time around the southeast end of the lake, perched in shoreline trees, attending the ice edge, and roosting in trees above "Murphy's Island." Would this number be surpassed March? Only the Spring Kingbird report will tell. Good numbers were also reported from Oneida Lake (21) on 1

January and on Cross Lake (15) on 9 February. There were relatively few reports of Rough-legged Hawks this period. Birders had trouble coming up with them away from the most reliable traditional locations.

On Christmas night, Tim Johnston videotaped a pair of Great Horned Owls as they called back and forth from the tops of adjacent hemlock trees in a New Hartford swamp. Light was ebbing, but he managed to see the pair copulate. At the time Johnston said that the female gave what sounded to him like an immature's begging call. In mid-February another pair of Great Horned Owls was found by Gregg Dashnau nesting at the Lakeview amphitheater at Onondaga Lake. This is a problematic nesting site with concerts and large crowds expected much earlier than in prior years, starting May 16. Refer to the next issue of this report to see how the situation was resolved. Snowy Owls were seen at the usual places early in the season, but it was not a great year for them in the Region. A Long-eared Owl was found by Gregg Dashnau at Breitbeck Park near Oswego Harbor on 19 December. He graciously gave credit for the find to a flock of Black-capped Chickadees who were actively mobbing the owl on its perch deep in the branches of a spruce tree. Several birders got to glimpse the bird before it was ultimately flushed by a photographer intent on getting an unobstructed shot. Short-eared Owls were decidedly uncommon this winter. One expired after colliding with a vehicle in the Town of Clay on 30 December. A maximum of two were reported in Oneida from 2-4 February. There were two reports of single Northern Saw-whet Owls, with Karl Curtis finding one near Onondaga Lake.

The only reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers came from the Lake Ontario shoreline, typical for recent times. There were over 25 reports of wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, a good number given it was hardly a banner year for half-hardy types. This period the resident pairs of Peregrine Falcons in the cities of Syracuse and Utica were reported on territory. The latter pair were observed escorting intruding falcons out of their territory on several occasions. Single Peregrines were reported from seven other locations including one adult female in Bridgewater in southern Oneida County. In February, that banded individual was frequently observed hunting Rock Pigeons on a large dairy farm. The leg bands revealed that the falcon was first banded as a nestling in Springfield Massachusetts in May 2016. The same individual was photographed in Rome in September 2017 and in Utica in February 2018.

Five Eastern Phoebes may have tried to winter in the Region. One at Three Rivers WMA was reported from 12 December through 15 February. The phoebes were invariably found close to open water where, presumably, there were some invertebrates to hunt. A maximum count of three Northern Shrikes was tallied at Three Rivers on 11 February. Otherwise the species was not commonly encountered. In the eastern half of the Region Northern Shrikes were especially rare. Although high counts of Red-breasted Nuthatches were not particularly impressive, reports of the species were notably widespread and came from many atypical locations. Lack of mast in the north is likely the cause

PHOTO GALLERY
WINTER 2018-19



Common Murre, Robert Moses SP, *Suffolk*, 11 Feb 2019, © Claire Formanski.



Evening Grosbeaks, Freeville, *Tompkins*, 13 Dec 2018, © Eric Zawatski.



Pine Grosbeak, Ticonderoga, *Essex*, 19 Dec 2018, © Gary Chapin.



Golden-crowned Sparrow, Downsville, *Delaware*; top: 30 Dec 2018, © Lance Verderame; bottom: 2 Jan 2019, © John Haas.



Pacific Loon, Oyster Bay Marine Center, *Nassau*, 3 Feb 2019, © Michael Zito.



Hermit Thrush, Jones Beach West End, *Nassau*, 28 Dec 2018, © Marc Brody.

for their irruption. While participating in the Syracuse CBC on 15 December, David Nash located four Marsh Wrens in Clay Marsh. It's not known how long they lingered beyond that date. There were three reports of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, but none after mid-December. Four Hermit Thrushes were found across the Region and their presence spanned the period. Gray Catbirds were found in two locations and a Brown Thrasher in one. The latter species showed up on 30 January at a Kirkland feeding station, but as far as we know the bird was not seen again.

In late February and through March, the USDA carried out European Starling eradication programs at several large dairy farms in Oneida County. The pesticide (DRC-1339) was applied to bait and left out for the birds to consume. The same pesticide, described as a slow-acting avicide, is used to control birds considered pests of agriculture. Across the country target species include pigeons, House Sparrows, blackbirds, grackles, cowbirds, and others. Although few in the birding community are troubled by the loss of starlings, the real threat posed to non-target species by the program is inaccurately minimized by USDA. At the very least the program was ill-timed as it coincided with the mass return of blackbird flocks to the region. Also, the baiting took place around the time the Region's starlings begin to disperse to breeding grounds primarily in swamps, towns, and cities. Given the winter-like conditions that met our earliest returning blackbirds, it's hard to believe that some weren't drawn in by the tainted bait left for starlings. One of the farms treated was known to have at least one winter resident Cooper's Hawk and an adult Peregrine Falcon (the same banded Peregrine mentioned above). Those raptors were documented as regularly feeding on pigeons and possibly starlings. Fears of detrimental effects on these NYS listed species did not halt the poisoning program. In contradiction to the USDA's press release announcing the eradication program (sent to media and the NYSDEC only one day before the program was set to begin), non-target species can be poisoned and may expire away from the project site. That was the case in January of 2015, when bodies of poisoned American Crows (subsequently tested by the DEC and determined to have ingested the same toxic bait) were found over a mile away. Instances like that do much to erode confidence in the Agency's diligence in conducting eradication programs in ways that minimize impact on non-target species.

Cedar Waxwings were surprisingly elusive this winter. They were rarely encountered in the same place for consecutive days. Their unpredictability (along with that of American Robins) was indicative of the scant amount of available forage. Of the winter finches, Evening Grosbeaks were the only species that mounted a significant irruption, albeit one almost exclusively limited to the Region's higher elevations. The southern highlands of Onondaga and Madison Counties consistently played host to respectable flocks throughout the season. The same was true in the Adirondack Foothills in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. With few exceptions, many in the Region's lower elevations missed out on the grosbeaks. Flocks of Common Redpolls, some sizable,

showed up in parts of the Region, but like the grosbeaks, most of us missed seeing them in our own yards. One report of a **Hoary Redpoll** came from Deborah Dohne at Green Lakes State Park on 19 February. There was only one report of Red Crossbill and two of White-winged Crossbill. None took place after mid-December. Pine Siskins were observed throughout the period but didn't linger in most places. There were only six reports of single Lapland Longspurs around the Region. Snow Bunting numbers were generally low. However, on 6 February a maximum of 4000 (thought a conservative estimate) were seen by Matt Brown in a field in Richland, Oswego County. In Tully, Gene Huggins kept track of a Vesper Sparrow that frequented his feeding stations from 10 January through 22 February. The Vesper Sparrow is a very uncommon winterer in the Region. An adult **Harris's Sparrow** showed up at a feeding station in Earlville on 18 January and remained until 3 February. The property owner, Harmon Hoff, deftly identified the rarity and informed the Region's birding community. Many made the pilgrimage out to see and photograph the wayward sparrow. This was the fourth winter record of the species and the eighth overall in Region 5. Deborah Dohne found both Savannah and Chipping Sparrow on the Syracuse CBC. Surprisingly, both were new species for the 100-year-old count. Along with her usual excellent collection of feeder birds, an adult male **Baltimore Oriole** remained at Linda Salter's through 31 December. It was provided grape jelly and orange halves and appeared healthy up until its unexpected disappearance. Salter speculates one of the area's accipiters may have caught the rather conspicuous oriole. Few birders have seen the species in winter and may not realize it looks much the same as in summer. No Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen this winter, but a male Common Yellowthroat was found by Deborah Dohne along Onondaga Lake's west shore on 12 December. The bird was found and photographed skulking in a cattail bed. It was relocated three days later but not again after that. Extensive birding by both Dohne and Dashnau showed how many birds had lingered along the west shore trail.

This season a total of 144 species was reported, which is two less than the recent 10-year average for the Region. There were also two hybrids reported. Highlights of the season included: Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, Wilson's Snipe, Black-legged Kittiwake, Little Gull, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Golden Eagle, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl, Eastern Phoebe, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Evening Grosbeak, **Hoary Redpoll**, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, **HARRIS'S SPARROW**, **Baltimore Oriole**, and Common Yellowthroat.

Winter 2018-'19 produced 40,187 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Hummingbird v 5.0. Reports were contributed by 341 people. Faithful readers of this publication may have noticed a sudden reduction in the number of Contributors called out by name in that section. eBird recently eliminated observer names from publicly available output to conform with

European privacy laws. It is now much harder for the authors to attach observers to sightings except for widely known and well-documented reports.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **Hast** – Hastings; **HI** – Howland I WMA; **LOS** – Lake Ontario Shoreline, **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **Skan** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL-DOVES

Snow Goose: 330 OnonL 4 Dec; max 1030 Oswego 16 Dec.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr & max 31 GLSP 16-23 Feb (GC, mob), great number.

Cackling Goose: GLSP 17-22 Feb (mob); OneiL 24 Feb (KM, MV), only reps.

Canada Goose: 1800 Utica Reservoir 16 Dec; max 2000 GLSP 12 Jan & 2000 17 Feb, same loc.

Snow Goose X Canada Goose (hybrid): GLSP 16 Jan-24 Feb (RR, mob, ph).

Mute Swan: max 76 FH 7 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: 6 FH 22 Dec; max 8 OswH 26 Jan; 5 Brew 27 Jan-17 Feb.

Tundra Swan: max 67 Brew 1 Jan; 13 OnonL 1 Jan; best counts from OneiL.

Wood Duck: no reps.

Northern Shoveler: WP 2 Dec; max 3 OnonL 6 Feb.

Gadwall: 10 WP 1 Dec; 4 Cazenovia 2 Dec; max 16 OLC 26 Jan.

American Wigeon: max 20 WP 1 Dec; DeWitt 23 Dec; 2 more locs.

Mallard: max 580 WP 15 Dec.

American Black Duck: 70 WP 1 Dec; max 103 Herkimer 15 Jan.

Northern Pintail: 2 WP 15 Dec; DB 12 Jan; only reps.

Green-winged Teal: max 2 WP 20-21 Dec (GM); Eaton 15 (JC) Dec, 29 Jan (KP); only reps.

Canvasback: max 49 OnonL 2 Jan; 31 Brew 6 Jan; 10 OswH 3-10 Feb; 10 FH 22 Feb; better than average numbers.

Redhead: max 1381 OnonL 16 Dec; 500 OswH 2 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: max 38 WP 3 Dec; 25 Bville 28 Jan; relatively low numbers.

Greater Scaup: 500 FH 10 Feb; max 800 17 Feb; best numbers at OswH.

Lesser Scaup: max 100 OnonL 1 Jan; 50 Oswego 2 Feb; low counts.

Greater Scaup/Lesser Scaup: max 800 OswH 3 Feb; 400 FH 22 Feb.

Aythya sp: max 800 OnonL 12 Jan; 150 OswH 2 Feb.

King Eider: ad m OswH 2 Feb thru (KM, GD, mob, ph).

Harlequin Duck: imm m OswH 24 Feb (MS, ph) only rep.

Surf Scoter: max 6 OswH 7-22 Feb; all reps from LOS.

White-winged Scoter: max 380 OswH 7 Feb; best numbers in Feb.

Black Scoter: 2 OnonL 10 Dec; max 6 OswH 3 Feb (DW).

Scoter sp: max 39 OswH 17 Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: max 2000 OswH 3 Feb; 380 FH 10 Feb.

Bufflehead: max 31 FH 1 Dec; 26 DeRuyter 1 Dec; 30 OnonL 18 Jan.

Common Goldeneye: max 350 OneiL 12 Dec; 200 FH 22 Feb.

Hooded Merganser: max 36 DeRuyter Reservoir 1 Dec; 34 OnonL 13 Jan.

Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser (hybrid): OswH 3 Feb (MB, ph).

Common Merganser: 580 Brew 6 Jan; 2210 OLC 7 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 2000 FH 19 Dec; 150 DH 22 Feb;

Ruddy Duck: 2 WP 1 Dec; OnonL 3 Jan; max 3 Herkimer 12 Feb; low numbers.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 TR 5 Dec; max 5 Bville 12 Dec; 3 SP 23 Jan; 5 reps of singles.

Ruffed Grouse: 2 Elbridge 6 Dec; 2 SH 28 Dec; 2 Limekiln Lake 4 Jan; relatively few reps.

Wild Turkey: max 68 Fulton 24 Feb; 65 Volney 27 Feb.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 Hatch Lake 1 Dec & 4 OnonL 9 Feb.

Horned Grebe: 2 FH 1 Dec; max 8 OnonL 2 Dec; 2 OswH 2 Feb; only one rep in Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: 4 WP 1 Dec; max 9 OnonL 11 Dec.

Rock Pigeon: max 404 Tully 8 Dec; 300 Syr 15 Dec.

Mourning Dove: max 130 Clay 15 Dec & 130 DB 2 Jan; 87 Dolge 12 Jan.

RAILS-LARIDS

American Coot: max 32 Skan 30 Dec; 4 OnonL 2 Jan.

Killdeer: DeRuyter 28 Dec; Syr 5 Feb; arr Durhamville 24 Feb.

Wilson's Snipe: Liverpool 21 Dec (JB, RK); Manheim 18-19 Jan (BLH); Syr 24 Feb (JB); only reps.

Black-legged Kittiwake: imm OswH 31 Jan (GD), only rep.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 30 OneiL 1 Dec; 8 SP 2 Dec; last OswH 1 Feb.

Little Gull: OswH 31 Jan (GD), only rep.

Ring-billed Gull: 560 FH 10 Feb; max 1050 OswH 22 Feb.

Herring Gull: 1000 MCL 13 -19 Dec; 1200 OswH 31 Jan.

Iceland Gull: 4 OswH 26 Jan; max 5 Canastota 24 Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 Fabius 17 Feb; 2 DB 24 Feb; singles 4 other locs.

Glaucous Gull: 2 OnonL 19 Jan; 2 DB 24 Feb; 2 Fabius 24 Feb; singles 3 other locs.

Great Black-backed Gull: 53 OswH 18 Jan; max 131 OnonL 25 Jan.

Larus species: max 400 OswH 17 Feb.

Gull species: max 600 OnonL 12 Jan.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: 2 OswH 13 Dec-16 Feb; max 5 FH 19 Dec.

Common Loon: max 3 OnonL 2 Dec-1 Jan & 3 Otisco Lake 2 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 98 OnonL 14 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: 5 Belgium 1-24 Dec; max 10 Delta Lake 1 Dec; 5 OnonL 15 Dec.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: OLC 3-13 Jan (DD, ph).

Turkey Vulture: 3 SFNS 22 Jan; max 17 Fayettville 4 Feb.

Golden Eagle: Waterville 4 Dec (RW); Fairfield 11 Dec (BLH); only reps.

Northern Harrier: max 2 OnonL 15 Dec; less common after Dec.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: widespread reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 2 BRH 10 Dec; 2 Syr 5 Jan; 2 OswH 29 Jan; 2 OnonL 23 Feb.

Northern Goshawk: 2 Sheds 4 Jan-7 Feb (LS), resident pair, only rep.

Bald Eagle: 21 OneiL 1 Jan; 15 Cross Lake 9 Feb; max 99 OnonL 15 Feb; large numbers congregate at OnonL in Jan & Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Bouckville, MADI 2 Dec; FH 9 Feb; only reps.

Red-tailed Hawk: 5 OnonL 23 Feb; max 6 Brew 28 Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 Richfield Springs 22 Dec-27 Dec; max 3 Fairfield 18 Jan & 3 Durhamville 26 Feb; relatively few reps.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 2 Waterville 8 Dec; 2 manlius 19 Dec; 2 Skan 1 Jan; 2 Marcellus 17 Feb; widespread reps of singles.

Great Horned Owl: 2 Fayetteville 2 Dec; 2 Utica 25 Dec; 2 SNC 12 Jan-17 Feb; 2 DL 26 Jan; 2 Lake Moraine, MADI 9 Feb; 7 additional reps of pairs.

Snowy Owl: max 3 Syr Airport 19 Dec; with one exception, reps of singles limited to greater Syr; last Syr Airport 19 Feb.

Barred Owl: 2 Elbridge 13 Dec; 2 Hamilton 19 Dec-5 Feb.

Long-eared Owl: OswH 19 Dec (GD), only rep.

Short-eared Owl: Clay 30 Dec, expired after vehicle impact; max 2 Oneida 2-4 Jan; Richland 17 Jan; only reps.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: OnonL 3 Dec (KC); Waterville 18 Dec; BLNC 28 Jan-4 Feb; only reps.

Belted Kingfisher: 2 Belgium 1 Dec; 2 DB 13 Dec-13 Jan; 2 DeWitt 15 Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker: FH 12 Jan; Scriba 13 Jan, 3-4 Feb, only reps.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 HI 17 Dec; 7 Syr 26 Jan.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: numerous reps of singles.

Downy Woodpecker: 11 HI 17 Dec; 10 Bre 17 Jan.

Hairy Woodpecker: 6 Dolge 12 Feb; 4 Hast 12 Feb.

Northern Flicker: max 10 HI 17 Dec-5 Jan; 7 Belgium 24 Dec.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 HI 17 Dec & 3 Bville 8 Jan & 3 Belgium 19 Jan.

American Kestrel: 3 Utica 13 Jan; widespread reps of singles.

Merlin: reps of singles from 20 locs, most in Dec.

Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Utica 13 Feb & 3 Utica 24 Feb; pair Utica thru; 2 Syr 15 Dec; singles at 7 other locs.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: TR 12 Dec (GD), 2 Jan (JB, RK), 11 Feb (GD), 15 Feb (JB); DB 13 Dec (DW, DD); OnonL 12 Dec (BP), 12 Jan (MS); FH 11 Jan (mob); Oswego 5 Jan (WMR); unusual to have so many.

Northern Shrike: max 3 TR 11 Feb; few east of OneiL.

Blue Jay: 15 DeRuyter 1 Dec; max 16 Williamstown 8 Dec.

American Crow: max 7085 Syr 29 Jan.

Fish Crow: 3 OnonL 15 Dec; max 5 Bville 1 Feb & 5 Syr 11 Feb.

Common Raven: max 12 Amboy 7 Dec & 12 Gray 24 Dec; 9 BRH 10 Dec.

Horned Lark: 60 Warren, HERK 13 Jan; max 65 Fabius 22 Feb; relatively small counts.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 98 HI 17 Dec; 46 Hatch Lake 28 Dec.

Tufted Titmouse: max 18 Sherrill 16 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 6 Syr 15 Dec; 5 FH 10 Feb; above average reps.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 22 HI 17 Dec.

Brown Creeper: 3 Bville 28 Jan; max 4 GLSP 3 Feb.

Winter Wren: CM 15 Dec (DN); Marcellus 23 Jan (KF); Elbridge 10 Feb (KB); only reps.

Marsh Wren: 4 CM 15 Dec (DN), only rep.

Carolina Wren: 2 OnonL 1 Dec-12 Jan; 2 Elbridge; 2 Bridgeport 15 Dec; 2 Port Byron 17 Dec.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 4 BLNC 10 Dec & 4 Georgetown 28 Dec; rel. few reps.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Syr 7 (DD), 15 Dec (JL); OLC 12 Dec (BP); Jamesville 12 Dec (JL).

Eastern Bluebird: max 11 Belgium 4 Dec & 11 Hast 14 Jan; 11 TR 11 Feb.

Hermit Thrush: BLNC 18 Dec (DA), 3 Feb (mob); Kirkville 13 Jan (BW); FH 10 Feb (LK); GLSP 17 Feb (KF).

American Robin: max 552 Hannibal 16 Dec; 201 17 Dec.

Gray Catbird: Bville 2 Dec (GD); OLC 18 Jan (BLH), 2 Feb (KC); only reps.

Brown Thrasher: Kirkland 30 Jan (FP, ph), only rep.

Northern Mockingbird: 2 Syr 15 Dec; 2 OnonL 3 Feb; one rep east of OneiL.

European Starling: max 1000 Madison County Landfill 19 Dec.

Cedar Waxwing: max 80 WP 3 Jan; 45 Barneveld 18 Jan; relatively few reps.

House Sparrow: 75 Utica 25 Dec; max 120 SVB 1 Jan.

American Pipit: 6 Oshkosh 24 Feb, only rep.

Evening Grosbeak: max 84 Sheds 8 Dec (LS); 71 Dolge 27 Feb (BLH); reps largely limited to high elevations.

House Finch: max 25 DeRuyter 1 Dec & 25 DeWitt 17 Jan.

Purple Finch: max 7 Sterling 12 Jan, 18 Feb & 7 Sherrill 18 Feb.

Common Redpoll: 80 Fabius 2-13 Jan; max 100 Bville 27 Feb; 60 SH 6 Feb; 60 Memphis 16 Feb.

Hoary Redpoll: GLSP 19 Feb (DD).

Red Crossbill: Syr 5 Dec (EM), only rep.

White-winged Crossbill: WP 1 Dec (DWe, MY); 3 Oswego 16 Dec; only reps.

Pine Siskin: max 50 Manlius 29 Dec; 27 Syr 4 Jan.

American Goldfinch: 50 Cedarville 21 Jan – 16 Feb; max 80 Dolge 7-9 Feb.

Lapland Longspur: first Manlius 24 Dec; 5 other reps of singles.

Snow Bunting: 200 Poland 11 Dec; max 4000 Richland 6 Feb (MB), amazing number; 200 Fairfield 8 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Manlius 4 Dec-23 Feb (KC); Marcellus 30 Dec; only reps.

American Tree Sparrow: 25 GLSP 25 Dec; max 30 Verona 1 Jan & 30 Canastota 8 Jan.

Chipping Sparrow: Utica 8-9 Dec (KT); Syr 11 Dec thru (DD, ph), 1st for SYR CBC; WP 21 Dec (GM); unusual in winter.

Field Sparrow: several linger thru Dec OnonL (GD, DD); max 6 OnonL 13 Jan (GD); unusual in winter.

Vesper Sparrow: Tully 10 Jan-22 Feb (GH), unusual in winter.

Savannah Sparrow: OnonL 12, 15 Dec (DD, ph), 1st for SYR CBC; Bville 3 Feb (JB, RK), unusual in winter.

Fox Sparrow: Sheds 1 Dec thru Jan (LS); Waterville 4 Dec (RW); OnonL 20 Feb (KF); only reps.

Song Sparrow: max 17 OnonL 15 Dec; better than average numbers this period.

Swamp Sparrow: 2 OnonL 12-15 Dec (DD); singles from 4 other locs.

White-throated Sparrow: max 83 OnonL 23 Dec; 17 Elbridge 10 Feb.

HARRIS'S SPARROW: Earlville 18 Jan-3 Feb (HH!, mob, ph), 4th winter rec.

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 OnonL 11-15 Dec; 2 DB 12 Jan; 4 more reps of singles.

Dark-eyed Junco: 41 OnonL 12 Dec; max 60 Verona 1 Jan.

Eastern Meadowlark: no reps.

Baltimore Oriole: ad m Sheds 1-31 Dec (LS, mob, ph).

Red-winged Blackbird: 5 Fayetteville 29 Jan; 7 DB 13 Dec; max 70 Clay 15 Dec; reps from 7 other locs.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 Cassville 6 Dec; max 15 Clay 15 Dec; several more reps.

Rusty Blackbird: max 2 DB 13 Jan (GC); only rep.

Common Grackle: Haste 26-27 Dec; Waterville 17 Jan; Little Falls 18 Jan.

Common Yellowthroat: OnonL 12-15 Dec (DD, ph).

Northern Cardinal: 17 Camillus 16 Jan; max 18 West Winfield 26 Feb.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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December was mild, with an average temperature in Watertown of 27.7°F, which was 1.3° above normal. The 3.3" of precipitation that fell in December was within 0.2" of average and mostly fell as rain. Mild temperatures continued

into the first few days of January but very cold weather took hold by the second week of the year, and the mean temperature for the month was 16.5°, or 2.9° below normal. January also saw 2.0" more precipitation than average, mostly falling as snow but also as freezing rain during several ice storms. Generally mild weather returned in February, as the month averaged 1.5° above normal. The 2.2" of precipitation that fell in February was almost exactly the month's average. Wild temperature swings defined the winter, with numerous cold spells interrupted by brief periods with temperatures reaching into the 40s, 50s, or as high as 61° on 21 December.

Somewhat surprising given the mild start to the winter, waterfowl numbers and diversity were low throughout. For the second year in a row no large southbound Snow Goose flight was observed in Region 6, with even fewer sightings reported this fall and early winter than during 2018. Presumably the same Cackling Goose seen on consecutive days in early December in Cape Vincent was the only rare goose of the season. Four Canvasback reports, a Northern Pintail, and two Green-winged Teal were the most unusual ducks of the season, which is to say that no duck rarities were found. For the first winter season since 2006 no Barrow's Goldeneye were reported.

Following the early January freeze-up gulls almost entirely vacated the St. Lawrence River and were present in small numbers near Lake Ontario. The season's only Glaucous Gull report was of 41 individuals below the Moses-Saunders Dam on 21 January among hordes of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. This was the last large group of gulls seen all winter. Nine Iceland Gulls were also present in this aggregation, and another five single Iceland Gulls from Jefferson County were the only other reports of gulls aside from Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls.

Northern Harriers and Rough-legged Hawks were more numerous on Point Peninsula and a few nearby locations in western Jefferson County than during any winter since 2011-12, but were generally scarce elsewhere. The Point Peninsula area was also the best place in the Region to witness the winter's modest Snowy Owl irruption, and was the site of one of the two known Short-eared Owl roosts in Jefferson County, the other roost occurring in nearby Cape Vincent. For a few lucky birders the season's clear highlight was a **Gyrfalcon** Gerry Smith found on Point Peninsula on 27 December that remained on the perch where it was first seen for several hours. Unfortunately, a couple of hours of cooperation was all this Gyr was willing to give and it was not seen again.

The combination of a relatively mild start to the winter and frequent visits by several birders from other Regions led to an unusually lengthy list of half-hardies and seasonally rare passernines. Among these visiting birders were Steve Kelling, Chris Wood, and Brian Sullivan, who on 5 January found a Boreal Chickadee on Point Peninsula, a very rare bird in Jefferson County. This group also found a Ruby-crowned Kinglet nearby for another great seasonal rarity. A Gray Catbird and a Vesper Sparrow on Fort Drum 14 December may have been part of a very late migratory movement as neither was found the following day.

The following day one each Eastern Phoebe and Marsh Wren was observed on the Watertown Christmas Bird Count. In addition to the Vesper Sparrow, seasonally rare Emberizids included Savannah and White-crowned Sparrows and Eastern Towhee.

For many birders the defining avian event of the season was a finch irruption that for most species was rather modest, but that included the largest Evening Grosbeak flight seen in decades. Evening Grosbeaks occurred throughout the Region, with some feeders attracting dozens and at least one feeder in Pierrepont exceeding 100. Long-time birders tell me that this was the best year for Evening Grosbeaks they've seen in at least 25 years, and I received several ecstatic reports from non-birders who were thrilled to have this flashy finch at their feeders. Pine Grosbeaks also came south this winter, although few were seen outside of St. Lawrence County. Redpoll numbers were generally modest although a flock estimated to include over 1200 individuals in Cape Vincent impressed participants on NYSOA's winter birding weekend 2 February. Given the size of this flock it was a little surprising that no obvious candidates for Hoary Redpoll were seen, although at least three Hoary Redpolls were documented elsewhere during the winter. Pine Siskin and Purple Finch were present in low numbers, and there were only eight reports of Bohemian Waxwing for the season.

The winter's tally of 119 species is six species above the mean for the previous 10 years, but about average for the eBird era. Those who saw it likely consider the Gyrfalcon the season's best bird, but most observers will remember this as the winter of the Evening Grosbeak. The assemblage of hawks, owls, and half-hardies on Point Peninsula drew birders from throughout New York, more than a few coming from the Ithaca area repeatedly though the winter. Such visits certainly bulked up the season's species total significantly, and a record species total may have been within reach had waterfowl and gull diversity not been so poor.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart Island, T Massena, STLA; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **BRV** – Black River Valley; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **ED** – El

Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **SHB** – Sackett's Harbor Battlefield; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WI** – Wellesley Is.

WATERFOWL - GREBES

Snow Goose: single CV thru 18 Dec only report before Feb; spring arr & max 8 T Rossie 16 Feb.
Cackling Goose: T Lyme 5-6 Jan (SK, CW, BS) only report.
Mute Swan: max 155 WI 17 Feb (LK, ST).
Trumpeter Swan: 3 ULLWMA 5 & 23 Feb only reports.
Tundra Swan: max 340 BRB 15 Dec (JB).
Gadwall: max 8 T Lyme 4 Jan.
Mallard: max 300 SLR T Massena 13 Jan.
American Black Duck: max 55 PtPen 27 Dec.
Northern Pintail: SLR T Ogdensburg 5 Jan & FD 22 Jan only reports.
Green-winged Teal: 2 FD 15-22 Jan, only report.
Canvasback: 4 reports max 6 PtPen 5 Jan.
Redhead: max 158 SLR CV 14 Jan.
Ring-necked Duck: 2 PtPen 12 Jan only report.
Greater Scaup: max 1000 BRB 5 Dec.
Lesser Scaup: 6 reports 1-2 each; last T Watertown 2 Feb.
White-winged Scoter: max 62 StPt 6 Jan (SK, CW, BS).
Long-tailed Duck: max 670 BPWMA 5 Dec.
Bufflehead: max 38 StPt 5 Dec.
Common Goldeneye: max 525 WI 17 Feb.
Barrow's Goldeneye: no reports.
Hooded Merganser: max 18 RMSP 16 Dec.
Common Merganser: max 255 SLR T Hammond 23 Feb low.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 175 CV 5 Jan.
Wild Turkey: max 93 T Hounsfield 23 Dec.
Pied-billed Grebe: 2 T Rodman 11 Feb only report (GS).
Horned Grebe: 5 StPt 1 Dec & 2 StPt 5 Dec only reports.
Red-necked Grebe: Dexter boat launch 23 Feb only report (BM).

RAILS-LARIDS

Ring-billed Gull: max 24 T Lyme 4 Jan; T Henderson 3 Feb & 3 T Ogdensburg 21 Feb only reports after 12 Jan.

Herring Gull: max 140 HP 12 Jan.

Iceland Gull: max 9 HP 12 Jan (JB); 5 singles JEFF only other reports.

Glaucous Gull: 41 HP 12 Jan (JB) only report.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 345 HP 12 Jan.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: BRB 5 & 15 Dec, only reports.

Common Loon: last ED 31 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: last StPt 5 Jan.

Great Blue Heron: T Lyme 1 Jan & ULLWMA 3 Feb only reports after mid-Dec.

Turkey Vulture: last fall migrant T Potsdam 7 Dec; spring arr T Croghan 21 Feb.

Golden Eagle: juv T Canton 22 Dec (EW & TW), 11 Jan (JB) & 15 Feb (JK).

Northern Harrier: many reports of up to 9 W JEFF thru especially PtPen; T Potsdam 15 Feb only report elsewhere.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 10 reports to eBird.

Cooper's Hawk: 31 reports to eBird.

Northern Goshawk: ad T Canton 9 Dec (JB); Pt Salubrious 4 Jan (RB); only reports.

Bald Eagle: 100+ reports; continuing to increase.

Red-tailed Hawk: numerous reports 1-6 W JEFF; smaller numbers elsewhere.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 24 PtPen 18 Jan (DW, DD); generally good numbers NW JEFF; low numbers elsewhere.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 10 reports more than usual nearly all found by visiting birders using playback.

Snowy Owl: many reports NW JEFF especially PtPen; smaller numbers BRV, T Leray & Philadelphia, T Canton; T Oswegatchie.

Short-eared Owl: 6 PtPen thru (mob); 3 CV thru (mob).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 2 CV 5 Jan; PtPen 13 Jan.

Belted Kingfisher: last CV 28 Dec.

Red-headed Woodpecker: T Alexandria 19 Feb (RB!) only report.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 14 reports STLA where still sparse but increasing.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: StPt 3 Feb (LK, ST, AK) only report.
Northern Flicker: about 30 reports mostly NW JEFF.
American Kestrel: 1-3/day PtPen thru; 5 additional locations each CV & St. Lawrence Valley Gouverneur & Lisbon; T Brownville 12 Jan; StPt 23 Feb; more than usual.
Merlin: 9 reports.
GYRFALCON: PtPen 27 Dec (GS, JB, IM, ET) reports to NYSARC.
Peregrine Falcon: multiple sightings from traditional locations at BI & T Watertown; single reports SHB 30 Dec; T Ellisburg 31 Dec; different locations CV 5 Jan & 28 Feb; Thousand I Bridge 2 Feb.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: Muspellunge Bay 15 Dec (JB) rare in winter.
Northern Shrike: reports of at least 38 individuals more than previous four winters.
Horned Lark: max 45 T Ellisburg 14 Feb.
Boreal Chickadee: PtPen 5 Jan (SK, CW, BS) rare outside Adirondacks.
Tufted Titmouse: 4 reports STLA where remains very thinly distributed.
Winter Wren: KC thru 20 Feb (RB) only report.
Marsh Wren: Muspellunge Creek T Hounsfield 15 Dec (JB) only report.
Carolina Wren: 4 reports more than most recent winters.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: PtPen 5 Jan (SK, CW, BS, photos!) rare winter.
Eastern Bluebird: 11 reports max 8 StPt 14 Feb.
Hermit Thrush: PtPen 5 Jan (SK, CW, BS) & 18 Jan (JB) scarce in winter.
American Robin: max 193 StPt 6 Jan.
Gray Catbird: FD 14 Dec (JB) rare in winter.
Bohemian Waxwing: max 41 T Potsdam 24 Dec; only 7 other reports.

Cedar Waxwing: max 75 StPt 1 Dec.
Evening Grosbeak: widespread; max 104 T Pierrepont 18 Feb; best winter in many years.
Pine Grosbeak: 50+ reports mostly STLA; max 61 St. Lawrence University 21 Jan.
Purple Finch: only 15 reports but most of multiple individuals; max 15 T Potsdam 30 Dec.
Common Redpoll: max 1250 in one flock CV 2 Feb (JB, mob).
Hoary Redpoll: T Pierrepont 9 Dec (JB); T Croghan 8 Feb (MR); T Madrid 9 Feb (EW & TW).
White-winged Crossbill: RRt 9 Dec (JB) only report.
Pine Siskin: max 12 T Potsdam 20 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: max 5 CV 22 Jan & T Ellisburg 14 Feb.
Snow Bunting: max 430 T Ellisburg 14 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: CV feeder thru 22 Jan (DM, photos!); scarce in winter.
American Tree Sparrow: just 15 on Canton-Potsdam CBC compared to 373 previous year; unusually scarce.
Vesper Sparrow: FD 14 Dec (JB) rare in winter.
Savannah Sparrow: PtPen 18 Jan (DW, DD, photos!); scarce in winter.
Song Sparrow: 18 reports; about average.
Swamp Sparrow: 4 at 3 locations; last FD 15 Jan.
White-throated Sparrow: reports from 30 locations; max 7 KC 18 Feb.
White-crowned Sparrow: juv T Croghan 2-3 Dec (MR, photos!); rare in winter.
Red-winged Blackbird: 7 reports; max 6 Clarkson University 5 Dec.
Brown-headed Cowbird: T Brasher 28 Dec & 3 PtPen 5 Jan only reports.
Common Grackle: 3 reports PtPen where last 17 Jan; T Norfolk 15 Feb only other report.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 3 StPt 1 Dec (DA); last 2 StPt 26 Dec; no reports away from this reliable winter location.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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December's average temperatures reversed November's cold temperatures by registering near normal for the entire Region except for the northwest corner of Franklin County which was, on average, a degree or two above normal. Winter storm Diego in the middle of the month and Eboni just after Christmas tracked mostly south of the area and had minimal impact. Precipitation (melted equivalent) totals for the month increased from 2-3" in the north of Region 7 to 4-5" in the southern portions of Essex and Hamilton Counties.

January, unlike December, was colder than average by as much as five degrees throughout the Region. This was due in large part to an extended polar vortex near the end of the month during which the daytime high temperature often did not get above zero. Precipitation totals again increased from 3-4" in the north of the Region to 6-7" in the south. Winter storm Harper in the middle of the month dropped 12" on Plattsburgh and upwards of 20" in the mountains. However, tracking a little more to the south, winter storm Jayden just dusted the upper Champlain Valley with 1-3" and left a modest 5-8" in the south of Region 7.

Overall February's temperatures were close to normal with only a small area around Lake Placid/Saranac Lake averaging several degrees above normal. This area is usually colder than its surroundings. For most of The Region precipitation averaged between 3" and 4". The greatest deviations from this occurred in the south of Hamilton County which averaged 5" and a small strip which included the border between Clinton and Essex Counties, which received only 1-2". The winter clipper system became established in this month with winter storms Kai, Lucian, Maya, Nadia, Oren, Petra, Quiana, and Ryan forming and tracking east in rapid succession. Maya left 10" of snow in the Champlain Valley and more than double that in the mountains. A little more than a week later Oren deposited roughly half those amounts throughout the area. Quiana left only a few inches in the Champlain Valley. The others had no significant impact.

Largely due to January's polar vortex and the accompanying subzero temperatures, the lake froze solid for the first time since 2015. As previously mentioned, this, which used to be the rule, has become the exception. However, ferries at Cumberland Head and Essex kept channels open and ice free for overwintering waterfowl and gulls. The flow of the Saranac River, augmented by the warm water from the sewage treatment plant, also kept an area open at the river's mouth. Often a Peregrine Falcon could be seen perched on a nearby cell tower, and occasionally observed diving to prey on the birds concentrated there.

The various forecasts for winter finch appearances proved accurate. Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, expected to be widely distributed, were present in moderate numbers. Red Crossbill was reported only five times. Scattered reports of Purple Finch and a single record for White-winged Crossbill along with ten widely distributed reports of Pine Siskin were also in line with last fall's predictions. The prediction of a flight year for Common Redpoll was also born out, though the numbers were not as great as in other flight years. There were just two reports of Hoary Redpoll.

All or part of five CBC circles are within Region 7. Red-tailed Hawks made a particularly good showing with 35 individuals counted. The vast majority, 31, were found on the three counts that are held in The Champlain Valley. The same disparity was observed for Bald Eagles with only two of thirteen counted in the circles in the Adirondacks. The Saranac Lake count reported the only Northern Goshawk of the season. Notable birds on the Plattsburgh count included Snowy Owl and both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls.

The appearance of a white phase **Gyrfalcon** the day before and the day after Christmas in nearly the same place and at nearly the same time as last year was documented with a photograph by Tara Fuller, the same woman who found the 2017 bird. Everything was the same, but there is no way to know whether it was the same bird both years. Now an almost annual occurrence, a **Tufted Duck** was present in the Crown Point area for most of the season, spending time in both Vermont and New York waters. An exceptionally late Red-throated Loon was recorded on Lake Abanakee **14 & 15 February**. A Common Loon at Noblewood Park on **7 February** was a late date for Essex County, as was the Double-crested Cormorant at Port Henry on **12 January**. Vesper and Chipping Sparrows also remained **into January**, well beyond their normal departure times.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; **Bk** – Beekmantown; **BC** – Belmont Center; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BR** – Brushton; **BWB** – Bulwaga Bay; **CR** – Chazy

Riverlands; **CV** – Clintonville; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CP** – Crown Pt; **Es** – Essex; **EF** – Essex ferry; **FtC** – Fort Covington Marsh; **GBM** – Gilbert Brook Marina; **IL** – Indian L; **KV** – Keene Valley; **LAb** – Lake Abanakee; **LL** – Long L; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MB** – Monty's Bay; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OH** – Owls Head; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PBC** – Plattsburgh CBC; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **PH** – Port Henry; **RR** – Reynolds Road; **SbB** – Sabattis Bog; **SI** – Saranac Inn; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TB** – Trombly Bay; **VTv** – Vermontville; **WB** – Wallons Bay; **SCBC** – Saranac Lake CBC; **WC** – West Chazy; **WI** – Willsboro; **WP** – Westport.

WATERFOWL-GREBES

Snow Goose: 30 CH 12 Jan, last.
Cackling Goose: PBC 16 Dec.
Am. Black Duck: 25 BWB 11 Dec (JR), max.
Green-winged Teal: PtR 16 Dec (AB), last.
Canvasback: CP 8 Jan (SR), last.
Redhead: 4 AP 6 Jan (P&RW), only report.
Ring-necked Duck: 4 WP 14 Jan (SR), late.
TUFTED DUCK: CP 27 Dec (SR), EF 26 & 27 Feb (EG).
Greater Scaup: 325 AP 17 Dec (SR), max.
Lesser Scaup: 570 CP 5 Jan (TK), max.
Surf Scoter: PH 10 Dec (SR), last.
White-winged Scoter: WB 10 Dec (RB), only report.
Long-tailed Duck: 2 BWB 30 Dec (JMc), only report.
Bufflehead: 25 WP 67 Jan (SR), last.
Com. Goldeneye: 750 BWB 11 Dec (JR), max.
Barrow's Goldeneye: 4 CP 8 Jan (SR), max.
Hooded Merganser: 26 TI 14 Dec (SR), max.
Com. Merganser: 300 MB 10 Jan (SR), max.
Red-breasted Merganser: MB 10 Jan (SR).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 4 WB 28 Dec (PC), max.
Ruffed Grouse: 3 VTv 12 Feb (AB), max.
Wild Turkey: 20 IL 16 Jan (MM), max.
Horned Grebe: 3 BB 12 Jan (AB), late.

RAILS-LARIDS

Iceland Gull: 3 SRM 19 Jan (AB), max.
Glaucous Gull: PBC 16 Dec.
Great Black-backed Gull: 15 SRM 13 Dec, max.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: LAb 14 & 15 Feb (M&WM), late.
Com. Loon: 2 NP 7 Feb (SR), last.
Double-crested Cormorant: 2 PH 12 Jan, late.
Great Blue Heron: Peru 9 Dec (GC), last.
Black Vulture: 8 TI 26 Dec (SP), rare.
N. Harrier: AP 6 Jan P&RW), last.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: CH 14 Feb (SJ).

Cooper's Hawk: WP 5 Jan (ED).

N. Goshawk: SCBC 15 Dec, only report.

Bald Eagle: 10 EF 27 Feb (EG).

Red-tailed Hawk: 15 PBC 16 Dec.

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 PBC 16 Dec.

E. Screech Owl: PtR 16 Dec (AB).

Great Horned Owl: CH 11 Feb.

Snowy Owl: WD 16 Dec, CP 30 Dec (SR).

Barred Owl: SbB 18 Feb.

Short-eared Owl: Peru 25 Dec (EP); Es 22 Feb (SR).

Belted Kingfisher: PBC 16 Dec.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 WI 16 Feb (ET).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Es 29 Jan - 12 Feb (G&MC).

Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 SI 12 Jan (RG).

N. Flicker: SRM 26 Jan (SR).

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 WI 16 Feb (ET).

Am. Kestrel: WC 16 Dec (JS).

Merlin: BR 16 Dec (JF), only report.

GYRFALCON: GBM 24 Dec (DR); MB 26 Dec (TF), white phase.

Peregrine Falcon: PBC 16 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

N. Shrike: PBC 16 Dec.

Canada Jay: 3 BB 18 Feb (ThM).

Common Raven: 4 BB 13 Jan (BB).

Horned Lark: 40 RR 10 Jan (SR), max.

Boreal Chickadee: 3 CV 27 Dec.

Tufted Titmouse: 4 PBC 16 Dec.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6 OH 7 Feb (JT).

Brown Creeper: 9 OH 21 Feb (JT).

Winter Wren: PH 3 Dec (SR), only report.

Carolina Wren: PB 17 Feb (RB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 BB 20 Jan (EM).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 3 BB 20 Jan (EM).

E. Bluebird: 4 CR 1 Dec-28 Feb, overwintered.

N. Mockingbird: SRM 13 Dec.

Bohemian Waxwing: 190 AP 15 Dec (JS), max.

Cedar Waxwing: 150 PH 5 Dec (RB), max.

Evening Grosbeak: 70 TL 27 Jan (MC), max.
Pine Grosbeak: 19 KV 12 Jan (SR), max.
Purple Finch: 4 Es 16 Feb (VP), only scattered reports.
Com. Redpoll: 100 Es 12 Jan (SR), max.
Hoary Redpoll: TL 2 Feb (TH); 2 OH 22 Feb (JT), only reports.
Pine Siskin: 2 BC 1 Dec (NR); SL 28 Feb (ED).
Lapland Longspur: 6 RR 10 Jan (SR), max.
Snow Bunting: 150 MB 6 Jan (KA), max.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALS

Am. Tree Sparrow: 21 AP 11 Dec (ED).
Chipping Sparrow: PL 12 Jan (KF), late.
Vesper Sparrow (R-7): 2 MB 6 Jan (KA), rare.

Savannah Sparrow: WP 6 Dec (ED); TI 13 Jan (SR), v. late.

Song Sparrow: Jay 12 Jan (PO), late.
White-throated Sparrow: 2 Es 15 Feb (CS).
Dark-eyed Junco: 30 TB 17 Feb (AF).
Red-winged Blackbird: IL 14 Dec (MMo), late.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Bk 7 Dec (TF); 7 FtC 16 Feb (DW), max.
Common Grackle: LL 5 Dec (SR), only report.
N. Cardinal: 14 CH 18 Feb (NO); 16 Es 18 Feb (CS), max.

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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December 2018 was warm with very little snowfall. At Albany the temperature was 3.9°F above normal, and virtually all of the 3.04" of precipitation was in the form of rain. Only 3.3" of snow was recorded. Many water bodies remained open into the first ten days of the new year. January 2019 saw near normal temperatures and wetter than usual conditions. 4.29" of liquid equivalent fell, which was 1.70" more than average. 18.8" of snow fell during the second half of the month. February 2019 offered a brief warm spell to open the month, but winter returned to even things out. The temperature averaged 1.7° above normal, with a precipitation surplus of 0.48", including 14.1" of snow.

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	32.4°	28.5°	+3.9°	28.7°	25.0°	+3.7°
Jan	23.3°	22.6°	+0.7°	19.7°	18.0°	+1.7°
Feb	27.6°	25.9°	+1.7°	22.3°	21.3°	+1.0°

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	3.04"	2.93"	+0.11"	4.25"	3.05"	+1.20"
Jan	4.29"	2.59"	+1.70"	4.43"	2.86"	+1.57"
Feb	2.68"	2.20"	+0.48"	2.15"	2.08"	+0.07"

Greater White-fronted Goose was observed in three locations this winter. Single individuals were noted at Hedges Lake in Washington County in December, Blockhouse Park in Stillwater, Saratoga County in January and Fultonville, Montgomery County in late February. Snow Geese had largely moved through the area around Thanksgiving, with small numbers of stragglers occasionally seen during the winter season.

Winter waterfowl diversity and numbers seemed about normal. Long-tailed Duck sightings were more frequent this season, but still in low numbers. As usual, Canvasback and Redhead were scarce. Ring-necked Duck and Greater/Lesser Scaup found the limited open water from late January onwards, joining the predominant Common Mergansers, Common Goldeneyes, Bufflehead and Hooded Mergansers.

Wild turkey numbers appeared to be healthy, with many reports of winter flocks of 20-150 birds.

A Virginia Rail was a surprising find near the Alcove Reservoir during the Albany County CBC on 16 December. Another Virginia Rail was also detected at a marsh in Stuyvesant, Columbia County, on 15 December during the Chatham CBC. There was one report each of Killdeer and American Woodcock at the end of the period, but those species primarily remained at bay to the south of the area with cold, snowy conditions at the end of February.

The three expected species of winter-visitant gulls were present this season, but in very low numbers compared to recent years. Single Iceland Gulls were noted in Fulton and Montgomery Counties, with both adult and juvenile birds seen in the Crescent-Albany corridor along the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. One or two Glaucous Gulls were detected in those same areas. Lesser Black-backed Gull wasn't observed until February in the Crescent-Albany section, after a single end-of-December report from Montgomery County.

A Red-throated Loon appeared on the Hudson River near downtown Albany in mid-February and stayed around for a week. It was joined by a Red-necked Grebe for a day on 24 February.

Black Vultures continue to expand their winter range in the Region, with reports as far north as Washington County. Some of their larger roosts are located at Hudson Valley Community College in Rensselaer County; Northumberland in Saratoga County; the NYS DOT yard in Voorheesville, Albany County; and a large roost noted this winter at Mawignack Preserve near Catskill in Greene County.

Northern Harrier numbers seemed solid in the larger winter grassland habitats. Golden Eagle sightings came from Washington and southern Columbia Counties. A Snowy Owl continued its long stay near Malta, Saratoga County right through the end of the period. Other Snowy Owls were seen in Montgomery, Washington, and Rensselaer Counties. Long-eared Owl was reported from the Ft. Edward Grasslands, and near Ancram in Columbia County. Short-eared Owl numbers seemed near normal in traditional overwintering areas

of Washington and Montgomery Counties, and an apparent new winter location was discovered near Livingston in Columbia County.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was discovered by Mike Nicosia, Kathy Schneider and Marian Sole on a Thursday morning birding outing in Taconic State Park in Copake Falls on 14 February. According to Bill Cook of the Alan Devoe Bird Club "...there were six New York State records between 1905 and 1995, three from Dutchess County. eBird lists about 15 individuals between 1990 and 2019 for New York with only one, the 1990 Dover, Dutchess County bird included in both references. These records suggest that our Columbia County bird is about number 20 for the state." It was still being found at month's-end feeding on bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) fruits and allowing photographic opportunities.

Evening Grosbeaks irrupted southward in large numbers this winter as had been predicted. They were documented throughout the Region, but none as thoroughly as the birds that frequented the backyard feeders belonging to Kyle Arvin of Summit, Schoharie County. He kept meticulous records of the time of day and number present, maxing out at 201 birds on 2 December. Pine Grosbeak also moved south during the winter, but not as widespread into Region 8. Fulton County had reports in December and Washington County had several locations with the species by February.

John Askildsen found a very drab Pine Warbler in extreme southeastern Columbia County on 30 December, an unusual find this far inland for the date. An observer in Ballston Lake, Saratoga County sent a note and a photograph to NYSDEC's *The Conservationist* contact page dated 12/21/2018, requesting identification help with a bird that was frequenting their mealworm feeder for a day. The image shows a **Prothonotary Warbler** perched on the feeder. It is unclear what the actual date of the sighting was, but the note referenced cooler weather, so it appears to have been much later in the fall season. Quite a bird to add to one's yard list, especially in Region 8.

129 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Coxsackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL-GREBES

Snow Goose: max 150 Saratoga L SARA 1 Dec.
Greater White-fronted Goose: Jackson WASH 15 Dec; Stillwater SARA 15 Jan; Fultonville MONT 24 Feb.
Canada Goose: max 7000 Saratoga L SARA 2 Jan.
Mute Swan: max 10 Catskill GREE 19 Jan.
Wood Duck: max 5 Stockport Flats COLU 15 Dec.
Gadwall: max 15 Stanton Pd ALBA 1 Jan.
Mallard: max 570 The Crossings ALBA 7 Feb.
Am. Black Duck: max 75 Hudson COLU 23 Dec.
Canvasback: max 9 Saratoga L SARA 10 Jan.
Greater Scaup: max 100 Saratoga L SARA 1 Dec.
Lesser Scaup: max 230 Saratoga L SARA 15 Dec.
White-winged Scoter: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 2 Dec.
Long-tailed Duck: max 2 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 3 Dec.
Bufflehead: max 150 Saratoga L SARA 1 Dec.
Com. Goldeneye: max 300 Hudson Falls WASH 2 Feb.
Hooded Merganser: max 100 Saratoga L SARA 1 Dec.
Com. Merganser: max 3500 Saratoga L SARA 2 Dec.
Red-breasted Merganser: five reports of singletons.
Ruddy Duck: max 3 Copake L COLU 7 Dec.

Ruffed Grouse: max 5 Petersburgh RENS 4

Feb.

Wild Turkey: max 112 Putnam WASH 10 Feb.

Pied-billed Grebe: Saratoga L SARA 1 Dec, only report.

Horned Grebe: max 2 Saratoga L SARA 13 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: Corning Riverfront P ALBA 24 Feb, only report.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: AR 16 Dec; Stuyvesant COLU 15 Dec.

Killdeer: Schoharie Croisiing SHS MONT 24 Feb; Glen MONT 24 Feb.

American Woodcock: Anram COLU 22 Feb.

Ring-billed Gull: max 1200 CF 23 Feb.

Herring Gull: max 690 Cohoes ALBA 18 Feb.

Iceland Gull: Corning Riverfront P ALBA 24 Feb; Fultonville MONT 26 Dec; Cohoes ALBA 6 Jan.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: CF 23 Feb; Corning Riverfront Pk ALBA 19 Feb; Hudson COLU 2 Jan; Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 31 Dec; Cohoes ALBA 8 Feb.

Glaucous Gull: max 2 Crescent P SARA 9 Feb.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 125 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 18 Feb.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: Corning Riverfront Pk ALBA 17 Feb.

Com. Loon: max 4 AR 17 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: Hudson COLU 2 Jan; Hudson Crossing Pk SARA 6 Dec; TR 29 Dec.
Great Blue Heron: max 3 Lions P SCH 29 Dec.
Black Vulture: max 35 Mawignack P GREE 27 Jan.
Turkey Vulture: arr Hudson COLU 5 Feb.
Golden Eagle: max 2 Hillsdale COLU 15 Feb.
No. Harrier: max 8 River Rd grasslands GREE 19 Dec.
Bald Eagle: max 60 Ernest R Lasher Mem P COLU 26 Feb.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 3 Livingston COLU 23 Feb.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 11 FtEG 23 Feb.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 12 FtEG 9 Feb.
Snowy Owl: Malta SARA 17 Dec; Fultonville MONT 5 Dec; Hudson Falls WASH 25 Feb; Poestenkill RENS 14 Feb.
Long-eared Owl: FtEG 7 Feb; Ancram COLU 20 Dec.
Short-eared Owl: max 7 FtEG 10 Feb.
No. Saw-whet Owl: no reports.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 2 Greenport COLU 18 Dec; Livingston COLU 23 Dec; Clermont COLU 13 Jan.
Merlin: max 2 Schaghticoke RENS 15 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: five reports of pairs.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

No. Shrike: reports from six counties.
Am. Crow: max 8000 Glens Falls WARR 10 Feb.
Com. Raven: max 6 Edinburg SARA 14 Jan; Medusa ALBA 31 Dec.
Horned Lark: max 210 Canajoharie MONT 16 Jan.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 APBP 12 Dec.
Brown Creeper: max 5 Ft Ann WASH 15 Feb.
Marsh Wren: Whitehall WASH 16 Dec, *late*.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 12 Berlin RENS 22 Dec.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 18 Dec; New Baltimore GREE 15 Dec.
Ea. Bluebird: max 21 Malta SARA 31 Dec.
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Taconic SP, Copake Falls COLU 14 Feb, *intro*, NYSARC.

Gray Catbird: Saratoga Springs SARA 9 Dec; Brunswick RENS 22 Dec; New Scotland ALBA 7 Jan.

Cedar Waxwing: max 65 Hoosick RENS 25 Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: max 201 Summit SCH 2 Dec.

Pine Grosbeak: max 40 Salem WASH 26 Feb.

Purple Finch: max 10 Moreau SARA 26 Jan.

Com. Redpoll: max 285 Easton WASH 14 Feb.

Hoary Redpoll: CCGP 5 Feb.

Pine Siskin: max 20 Hillsdale COLU 19 Jan.

Lapland Longspur: max 6 Fultonville MONT 1 Feb.

Snow Bunting: max 330 FtEG 26 Jan.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-WARBLERS

Ea. Towhee: Pittstown RENS 12 Jan, only report.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 45 Livingston COLU 4 Dec.

Chipping Sparrow: three reports of feeder birds that lingered into Jan.

Field Sparrow: Greenport COLU 18 Dec; Guilderland ALBA 15 Dec.

Savannah Sparrow: max 15 Livingston COLU 25 Jan.

Song Sparrow: max 16 Livingston COLU 16 Jan.

Swamp Sparrow: max 2 Greenport Cons Area COLU 2 Jan.

White-throated Sparrow: max 62 Greenport COLU 18 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 6 Ancram COLU 13 Jan.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 107 Schaghticoke RENS 26 Jan.

Ea. Meadowlark: max 3 River Rd grasslands GREE 19 Feb.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 600 Livingston COLU 1 Jan.

Rusty Blackbird: max 10 Coveville SARA 10 Dec.

Com. Grackle: max 5000 Schodack RENS 23 Feb.

Com. Yellowthroat: Nutten Hooke COLU 1 Dec, *late*.

Pine Warbler: Ancram COLU 30 Dec, *late*.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Livingston COLU 20 Dec.

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REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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December 2018 was warmer than normal, with a high of 62°F on 21 December, 27° higher than normal. The low was 13° on 11 December, 5° below normal. Precipitation was slightly higher than normal at 3.04". Snowfall was 10.4" lower than normal at 3.3". January 2019 started out warm with a high of 53° on 1 January, 23° higher than normal. The low temp occurred on 21 January with a temperature of minus 7°, 18° below normal. Precipitation was 4.29", 1.7" above normal. Snowfall was 18.9", 1" higher than normal. February started out colder than normal with a temp of minus 8° on 1 February, 22° below normal. It quickly warmed, and a high of 57° on 5 February was 24° higher than normal. Precipitation was 2.68", .48" higher than normal. Snowfall was 14.1", 1.9" higher than normal. Temperatures fluctuated greatly throughout the entire period with most of the precipitation falling in the form of rain during the warmer periods.

On 9 February, Gail Benson and Tom Burke found a Ross's Goose at Croton Point Park. It remained only through the morning of the 10th before flying off. Almost certainly the same bird turned up in two more locations, on 11 February in Plattekill and 14 February at Glenmere Lake.

On 22 February, the author found a **Trumpeter Swan** on the Rondout Reservoir. Initially thought to be a Tundra Swan, with assistance from Tom Burke and Kevin McGowan it was confirmed to be a Trumpeter. The bird remained through the end of the period and beyond and was seen by many.

On 21 February Peter Schoenberger and Mark DeDea found an adult Tundra Swan on Esopus Creek in Stone Ridge. The bird remained in the general area for a week, seen by many birders.

On 21 January, Ken McDermott found a first winter Glaucous Gull on the Newburgh Water Front. When several birders came to see the bird, a first winter Iceland Gull was found as well.

One of the highlights of the season was the much-anticipated winter finch irruption. Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins were reported widely throughout the Region. Evening Grosbeak was recorded in each county during December, with fewer reports of Common Redpolls. By the end of December, both species had retreated to the high elevation conifer forests of Sullivan County where they were seen in good numbers at local feeders throughout the remainder of the period. Pine Siskins were much more widespread and continued throughout the period.

On 2 February, Bruce Nott found an overwintering Lincoln's Sparrow on Onion Avenue in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. The bird remained for a couple of weeks and was seen by many.

On 19 December, Gail Benson found a Yellow-breasted Chat at Marshlands Conservancy. The bird remained through 31 December and was seen by many.

The highlight of the period was a **Say's Phoebe** found on 3 January by Tom Sudol on the Winding Waters Trail at the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge in Orange County. The bird remained for two days and was seen by many observers.

With sadness we note the passing of Herb Thompson on January 1, 2019. Herb was Carena Pooth's partner in both birding and life for 25 years. He enthusiastically shared his sightings and his knowledge with other birders, who remember him as a kind and joyful friend. Herb is missed by many in our birding community.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza; **BWMA** – Bashakill WMA; **CPP** – Croton Pt P; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; **GV** – Great Vly WMA; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail; **KP** – Kingston Pt; **LM** – Liberty Marsh; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy; **MP** – Morningside P; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region; **PP** – Piermont Pier; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP; **WRNWR** – Wallkill River NWR.

WATERFOWL – GREBES

Snow Goose: max 19 OCBDR 19 Dec (DWare); 7 Denniston Road 5 Jan (GB, PD).
Ross's Goose: CPP 9 Feb (GB, TBu, LTr, ASw); Plattekill 11 Feb (KMa); Glenmere L 14 Feb (KA).
Greater White-fronted Goose: Camel Farm 1 Dec (LScr, MZe); EGR 7 Dec. lower Westchester County thru (GB, TBu); Wallkill 8 Jan (BNo, JHaa).

Cackling Goose: OCBDR 29 Dec (MZe); 2 Blue Chip Farm 5 Jan (CM, GB, TBu, PR) Bowman Pd 9 Jan (GB); 2 Wallkill R 15 Jan (BNo); OCBDR 15 Jan (JHaa); Mill Dam Pd 19 Jan (PSch, MD) EGR 2 Feb (JHaa); Liberty Loop 22 Feb (JC).

TRUMPETER SWAN (R9): Rondout Res 22-28 Feb (JHaa, TBu, GB), *intro*.

Tundra Swan: Willow Brook Farm 19 Feb (DK); Esopus Creek 21 Feb (PSch, MD).

Wood Duck: max 30 BWMA 21 Feb (JHaa).

Northern Shoveler: 12 Twin Lakes P 3 Dec (SOr); 12 Rockland L 6 Dec (AW);

4 Browns Pd 18 Dec (BNo); 5 Rt. 207 Marsh 23 Dec (BNo); 3 Crestwood L 19 Jan (MBo); 2 EGR 6 Feb (GB).

Eurasian Wigeon: Rye Town P 6 Feb (GB, BSt).

Canvasback: 2 Crestview L 22 Dec (BNo); Sylvan L 12 Jan (CP, AMa, JA); 151 Norrie SP 12 Jan (KSch, MK, BM); max 23 KP 28 Jan (NM); max 77 Piermont Pier 29 Jan (KR); Rondout Res 6 Feb (JHaa).

Redhead: 5 Lake Tappan 30 Dec (NB); 2 NW 22 Jan (BNo); Glenmere L 12 Feb (KA); 2 Harcourt Sanctuary 20 Feb (TO).

COMMON EIDER (R9): Five Islands P 13 Dec (VH).

White-winged Scoter: Neversink Res 1 Dec (PD, JHaa, SB); EGR 1 Dec. (KD, MK, GB); 2 Wickham L 2 Dec (MZe, JHaa, KM); KP 13 Dec (DT); 2 MC 23 Dec (PR); Norrie Pt SP 26 Dec (BB, CV, SJ).

Long-tailed Duck: Neversink Res 7 Dec (KM, JHaa); Minnewaska SP 29 Dec (NM); 2 Norrie Pt SP 30 Dec (MR); River Rd. 12 Jan (FM, DF); Esopus Light House 12 Jan (RM, PSch, JP); KP 9 Feb (JY).

Red-breasted Merganser: Plum Pt 30 Dec (KMi); max 64 EGR 4 Jan (JR); 6 Rockland L SP 12 Jan (MPap); Croton Landing 19 Jan (KBa); 2 George Island P 5 Feb (FGr); 2 PP 6 Feb (VH); CPP 25 Feb (ASw).

Horned Grebe: Kiamesha L 1 Dec (SBa); 3 Orange L 3 Dec (BNo); Madam Brett P 27 Dec (SI); Dennings Pt 31 Dec (PM); New Croton Res 18 Feb (CR); max 44 EGR 18 Feb (GB, TBu); Kensico Res 21 Feb (NG).

Red-necked Grebe: Chadwick L 3 Dec (BNo); Davenport P 23 Dec (LTr, KBa); Norrie SP 6 Jan (SRO); EGR 14 Jan (FGu, TBr); Kensico Res 27 Feb (NG).

RAILS – LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 2 CPP 15 Dec (MBo); CPP 23 Jan (ASw).

Sandhill Crane: Black Creek Preserve 10 Dec (NM).

Killdeer: CPP 12 Dec (SWr); Davenport P 23 Dec (KBa, LTr); 2 OCBDR 15 Feb (LScr, KA); MC 25 Feb (VH).

Dunlin: EGR 25 Jan (ASw, CR, KBa).

Purple Sandpiper: 2 Larchmont Manor P 24 Dec (TGu); 4 Milton Pt 12 Dec (GB, TBu); Larchmont Manor P 22 Jan (GB).

RAZORBILL (R9): Bronx/Westchester CBC EGR 23 Dec (BWa); EGR 24–25 Dec (GB, TBu).

Laughing Gull: CPP 25 Jan (CR, KBa, K. McGrath).

Iceland Gull: KP 1 Dec (SJ, BM); NW 21 Jan (K. McDermott), BNo, JHaa, GB, AMA; 23 Feb KP (DF, MD, PSch).

Glaucous Gull: NW 21 Jan (K. McDermott), BNo, JHaa, GB, TBu).

LOONS - PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 14 EGR 25 Dec (GB, TBu); 2 MC 31 Dec (ASw, TA, TR); Croton Dam Road 15 Feb (JG).

Common Loon: CPP 15 Dec (MBo); 2 Haverstraw Bay CP 23 Dec (MOL); Rockland L SP 11 Jan (AW); CPP 19 Jan (CR, LG); max. 10 EGR 22 Jan (GB); MC 7 Feb (DJ).

Double-crested Cormorant: Sylvan L 4 Dec (AMA); Dennings Pt 4 Dec. (AL); PP 5 Dec (SBa); Haverstraw Bay CP 9 Dec (AW); CPP 9 Dec. (SWr); Wappingers Creek 10 Dec (J&AD); Esopus Meadows 12 Dec (JY); Stony P 16 Dec (AW); NW 1 Jan (KMi, DB, CShe); 3 EGR 4 Jan (JR); 2 Charles Pt 27 Jan (TBre); 2 George's Island P 5 Feb (FGr); 6 Steamboat River P 17 Feb (LTo, NT).

Great Cormorant: Rye Town P 1 Dec (GB); max 6 EGR 27 Dec (GB, BST, TG) max 10 EGR 13 Jan (GB); Mount Taurus 27 Jan (BH); max 7 Rye Town P 28 Jan (GB, MBo); 8 MC 1 Feb (GB) max 20 Charles Pt 3 Feb (JCI); CPP 10 Feb (K. McGrath,); Haverstraw Bay CP 11 Feb (AW); 27 Stony Pt 19 Feb (DH); max 12 Steamboat Riverfront P 23 Feb (SWa); NW 24 Feb (BNo).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 4 EGR 7 Dec (GB); EGR 13 Dec (GCha); 2 EGR 23 Dec (JA, TBu, GB).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Wright I 13 Jan (TK).

Golden Eagle: Rockland L SP 4 Dec (AW); Harriman SP 7 Dec (AW); Rondout Res 9 Dec (JHaa); Dover Plains 11 Dec (DK); Dover Plains 22 Dec (JA); Storm King Mountain 30 Dec (KMi, CShe, MZe); Beechwoods 27 Jan (JHaa); Pine Plains 14 Feb (DK); Perretti Road 22 Feb (DK); Cooper Road Amenia 23 Feb (SJ).

Northern Harrier: 15 SGNWR 20 Dec (BSw); 38 Minnewaska-Shawangunk CBC (CM, GB, TBu, PR); 9 SGNWR 9 Feb (TG); 4 OCBDR 11 Feb (BNo); 13 SGNWR 18 Feb (MSc, KBu); 11 SGNWR 26 Feb (SBu).

Bald Eagle: 7 Stony Pt 14 Dec (AW); 78 Rio Res Monticello CBC 27 Dec (JHaa, KMi); 28 Iona I 26 Jan (BNo, KA); 30 Charles Point Peekskill 26 Jan (BNo, KA); 30 Steamboat Riverfront P 3 Feb (DK).

Rough-legged Hawk: 4 CPP 22 Jan (CR); 4 SGNWR 1 Feb (TA); 6 OCBDR 26 Jan (KBa, CR).

Eastern Screech-Owl: EGR 9 Dec (MF) Peabody Preserve 16 Dec (EG); OCBDR 19 Dec (SA); Stamfordville 21 Dec (DK); Stewart Forest SP 25 Dec (PD); 2 Rhinebeck Waste Water Treatment Plant 29 Dec (DH); Harriman SP 30 Dec (LD); 3 Tivoli Bays WMA 1 Jan (SRO); Ulster P 9 Jan (DT); Bellvale 12 Jan (DWare); MC 14 Jan (GB, TBu); Minnewaska Trail 20 Jan (CK); Ulster Fair Grounds 22 Jan (GF); Wurtsboro 22 Jan (JHaa); CPP 10 Feb (PC); Strever Farm 12 Feb (CP).

Great Horned Owl: 2 Mohonk L-Ashokan Res CBC 15 Dec (PSch); BWMA 4 Jan (SBa) 2 Seamon P 5 Jan (RM); Rondout River Walk 29 Jan (WT); Rondout Res 26 Feb (K. McDermott).

Long-eared Owl: Kripplebush CBC 30 Dec (PSch); CPP 9 Jan (JHal); Tymor Forest P 2 Feb (DS, ES).

Short-eared Owl: max. 5 SGWNR 24 Dec (FP); max. 3 OCBDR 25 Jan (IG); max 12 SGNWR 2 Feb (KK, DK).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Mianus River Gorge Preserve 13 Dec (MF); Harriman SP 12 Jan. (JV); East Pound Ridge 13 Jan (JV); CPP 23 Feb (NZ).

Merlin: Stringham P 4 Dec (AMa); Forsythe Nature Center 10 Jan (MD); OCBDR 2 Feb (KA); Blue Chip Farm 12 Feb (SWa).

Peregrine Falcon: EGR 1 Dec (VH) Benedict P 7 Dec (SWa).); CPP 15 Dec (MBo); 2 OCBDR 15 Jan (JHaa); Blue Chip Farm 19 Jan (MD, PSch); NW 21 Jan (K. McDermott); EGR 25 Jan (ASw, GB); OCBDR 10 Feb (KMi, BNo); Harcourt Sanctuary 24 Feb (JB, GB).

Monk Parakeet: max 10 Five Islands P 13 Dec. (VH); 2 Red Bridge Area 15 Jan (FGu, TBr); max 11 Red Bridge Area 15 Feb (FGu, TBr).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: Siemens 4 Dec (PSh); Zinsser P 24 Dec (MBo); Kensico Res 29 Dec (NG); Rockefeller SP 7 Jan (LM); Kensico Res 11 Jan (NG); Rockefeller SP 23 Jan (KW); Sleepy Hollow Cemetery 11 Feb (VH).

SAY'S PHOEBE: Winding Waters Trail 3-4 Jan (TS, LScr, BNo, TBu, GB, JHaa), *intro*.

Northern Shrike: SGNWR 15 Dec (SWa); Kenridge Farm 15 Dec (JB, KMi, CShe, DB); Indian Brook Road 2 Feb (RB); Kukuk Lane 3 Feb (MD); Harcourt Sanctuary 24 Feb (PSch, mob).

Horned Lark: max 250 OCBDR 14 Feb (SA, M. Normandia); max. 40 Blue Chip Farm 20 Dec (J&KD), 30 O'Leary Farm 20 Dec (BM); 38 Stone Ridge 25 Jan (PSch); 36 SGNWR 22 Feb (AH); 14 Neversink Res 26 Feb (SG).

Gray Catbird BWMA 5 Dec (JHaa): Rockefeller SP 10 Dec (ASw, mob); CPP 11 Dec. (BSt); EGR 11 Dec (GB, TBu); West Point Poundry Preserve 29 Dec (RB); Harriman SP 7 Jan (AW); Kenridge Farm 14 Jan (BNo).

Evening Grosbeak: 45 Catskill P 1 Dec (ML); 4 Stone Ridge 2 Dec (MZi); 10 Cortlandt Manor 8 Dec (EB); BWMA 9 Dec (SBa); max 150 Neversink Township 1 Dec–28 Feb (SBa, TBu, GB, SSu, JB), *intro*.

Common Redpoll: Hopewell Junction 3 Dec (EM); 2 Gibson Hill Road 8 Dec (JS); max 46 Neversink Township 19 Dec (JHaa, mob); Peach Hill P 12 Jan (JA); 2 Ulster P 13 Jan

(DT); OCBDR 3 Feb (JHaa, BNo) 1 Indian Brook Road 3 Feb (GB), *intro*.

Pine Siskin: Warwick Grove 2 Dec (GF); 2 Manitou Point Preserve 3 Dec (RB); 4 MC 3 Dec (DJ); max 42 BWMA 7 Jan (SBa); 8 SGNWR 16 Jan (BK); 15 CPP 10 Feb (SK); 3 D & H Canal Linear P 28 Feb (JHaa).

Lapland Longspur: Huson Road 1 Dec (JHaa); 2 OCBDR 3 Feb (JHaa, BNo); OCBDR 9 Feb (AG); 5 OCBDR 14 Feb (GB, SA, M. Normandia); 3 OCBCR 16 Feb (AW); 2 OCBCR 19 Feb (MZe).

Snow Bunting: 35 Huson Road 1 Dec (JHaa); EGR 1 Dec (GB, MBK, KD); 11 Tymor Forest P 1 Dec (AMa); PP 8 Dec (JC); 5 Sullivan County Community College 8 Dec (PD, KMi); 2 Bowline Pt 9 Dec (AW); 30 OCBDR 15 Dec (JHaa); CPP 20 Dec (SRo); 4 Beechwoods 30 Jan (JHaa); 100 OCBDR 2 Feb (KA); SGNWR 8 Feb (PSch).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Wickham L 2 Dec (MZe); Plank Road 23 Dec (JHaa); EGR 17 Jan. (GB); Clove Road 20 Jan (JA); Harriman SP 24 Feb (LD).

Vesper Sparrow: OCBDR 1 Feb (FP).

Lincoln's Sparrow: OCBDR 2-17 Feb (BNo, LScr, KA, mob).

Yellow-breasted Chat: MC 19-31 Dec (BSh, GB, TG, ASw).

Eastern Meadowlark: max. 11 SGNWR 13 Jan (MZe); LM 17 Feb (AK).

Rusty Blackbird: 3 OCBDR 19 Dec (SA); 9 Weston Road 26 Dec (AW); 5 Verbank Club Road 2 Feb (CP); 30 Ulster P 5 Feb (DT); 3 D & H Canal Linear P 11 Feb (JHaa); 10 Pruyne Sanctuary 15 Feb (ASw).

Common Yellowthroat: Gibson Hill Road 23 Dec (JS).

Palm Warbler: 2 Five Islands P 1 Dec (ASw, DvZ, SRo, mob).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: CPP 1 Dec (SRap); George Young Boulevard 23 Dec (JU, TF, ADA); MC 11 Jan (VH); Ludlow Woods 19 Jan (DK); OCBDR 2 Feb (KA).

ADDENDA

The following reports were inadvertently left out of the Region 9 Fall 2018 report (KB Vol 69, No. 1):

COMMON EIDER (R9): max 7 Playland P 24 Nov (TBu, GB); Playland P 25 Nov (TBu, GB).

Black Scoter: 4 Lake Carmel 9 Oct (A. Macchiarola); PP 14 Oct (C. Weiss); 7 Kiamesha L 14 Oct (JHaa, P. Dechon); Ashokan Reservoir 31 Oct (PSch); Playland P 6 Nov (TBu, GB); Sylvan L 12-23 Nov (C. Pooth, mob).

Red Phalarope: 2 Hillview Res 25 Sep (S. Camillieri, N. Giordano, GB, TBu).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Mamaroneck Harbor 27 Oct (TBu, GB), only report.

Northern Gannet: Playland P 15 Nov (TBu, GB); 4 Playland P 16 Nov (TBu, GB); 6 Playland P 25 Nov (GB, TBu).

Long-eared Owl: SGNWR 30 Nov (GB, TBu).

Acadian Flycatcher: MC 3 Oct (TBu, GB).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Playland P 17-18 Nov (GB, TBu).

Nelson's Sparrow: 4 MC 10-19 Oct (TBu, GB).

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REGION 10—MARINE

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Temp	Central Park			Islip		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	40.1°	37.5°	+2.6°	38.1°	35.6°	+2.5°
Jan	32.5°	32.6°	-0.1°	31.1°	30.6°	+0.5°
Feb	36.2°	35.3°	+0.9°	34.4°	32.8°	+1.6°

Precip	Central Park			Islip		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	6.51"	4.0"	+2.51"	6.50"	4.06"	+2.44"
Jan	3.58"	3.65"	+0.07"	3.85"	3.64"	+0.21"
Feb	3.14"	3.09"	+0.05"	3.70"	3.24"	+0.46"

The winter of 2018-2019 was exceptionally mild in Region 10, with average temperatures slightly (in February) to considerably (in December) above average. Although precipitation was above average, it consisted mostly of rain. Snowfall in December was zero at Islip and only a trace in Central Park (cf. average 4.8"), and Central Park recorded a total of only 1.1" in January (average 7.0") and 2.6" in February (average 9.2"). Nevertheless, there were short periods of intense cold. Temperatures as low as 18° on 8 December created ice cover that surely affected freshwater waterfowl counts on some CBCs. It soon became milder, but the temperature in Central Park plunged from a high of 42° on 20

January to a low of 4° on 21 January and again to 10° on 1 February, after which temperatures fluctuated upward to a mild latter half of the month. Efforts to mount pelagic trips from Brooklyn were stymied by weather, affecting records of certain species.

For many Region 10 observers, especially on Long Island, one of the most interesting events of the season was the astonishing influx of Razorbills. The first intimations were about 11 December, with 200 counted by Keith Cashman at the Fire Island Wilderness area, and 13 December, when Ken and Suzie Feustel counted 540 at Montauk Point; the number grew to 1,898 on the Montauk CBC on 15 December, and was succeeded by Montauk area counts of 2,510 on 23 December (A. C. Wilson), **9,015** on 27 December (K. and S. Feustel), 2,500 on 6 January (R. Shriber), **4,400** on 12 January (M. McBrien) and **10,000** on 23 January, passing Montauk Village Beach from west to east at an estimated rate of 200 to 400 per minute (K. Gasser). Large numbers were seen along the south shore: up to **5,668** at Shinnecock Inlet on 13 January (R. Aracil), 2,400 at Fire Island-Old Inlet on 25 December (K. Cashman), 3,534 at Smith Point County Park on 27 December (M. McBrien), and 1,083 at Robert Moses State Park on 16 December (P. Morris). The 1,287 Razorbills seen on the Southern Nassau CBC on 29 December were a new maximum for that count, as were the 1,145 recorded on the Captree CBC on 16 December. (The previous high for this count was 12.) Further west, as many as 215 were seen at Breezy Point in Queens (13 January, D. Gochfeld). From the shores of Long Island Sound, 51 were recorded on the Orient CBC (29 December), single-digit records extended west to Crab Meadow Beach in Northport, and a single bird provided the fifth record of this species for the Bronx-Westchester CBC. Similarly high numbers were recorded along the New Jersey coast, reaching a maximum of 10,283 at the Avalon Seawatch on 9 January (eBird). This invasion exceeded the previous record-setting incursion in winter 2002-2003, in which a count of 1,200 at Montauk Point on 16 January was a record number for New York, and was bettered by the 4,000 tallied eight days later (*Kingbird*, June 2003). In a published analysis of Razorbill winter records, Dick Veit found that this species has increased fairly steadily for several decades, with short-term increases that are correlated with colder water temperature (the North Atlantic Oscillation, or NAO) that may affect the distribution of the sand lance, a major food. (R. R. Veit and L. L. Manne 2015, *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, doi: 10.3389/evo.2015.00038). He suggested to me that this season's influx may be associated with strong fluctuations in the NAO index in December.

Four other alcid species were sighted from shore this winter, including single Black Guillemots at Montauk Point and Shinnecock Inlet and at least four sighting of Dovekies, from Montauk Point to Breezy Point, Queens. At least two **Thick-billed Murres** were spotted in Jones Inlet, one was monitored as it swam from Gravesend Bay to Veterans Memorial Pier in Brooklyn, and an extraordinarily cooperative, usually close bird resided in Shinnecock Inlet throughout January. Even better were several **Common Murres**, a species

seldom seen from shore. These included one photographed at Jones Beach West End on 2 February, one at Camp Hero State Park on 23 December, a moribund bird photographed at Robert Moses State Park 11 February, and three individuals, which Derek Rogers and others distinguished by photographs, recorded at Shinnecock Inlet in January.

Among other saltwater species were two **Pacific Loons**, one at Jones Beach on 16 February, and one close to the docks at the Sagamore Yacht Club in Oyster Bay, 3-28 February. No vagrant grebes were reported, but Red-necked Grebes were plentiful, mostly along the south shore from Montauk to Brooklyn, and singlets were spotted in the Bronx at Pelham Bay Park, and even in Manhattan at Randall's Island. There were quite a few sightings of Black-legged Kittiwakes, with as many as 91 seen from Montauk Point. A carefully described Kittiwake in Long Island Sound, seen during a nor'easter from the ferry just out of Port Jefferson harbor, was at an unusual location. At least four Black-headed Gulls were recorded, from Lake Montauk west to the Brooklyn shore, and a single Little Gull was seen at Montauk Point 10-16 February. However, a maximal count of 500 Bonaparte's Gulls (at Smith Point County Park on 3 January) was low by historical measures, and the species was missed altogether on the Montauk, Captree, Smithtown, and Southern Nassau CBCs, the latter for the first time in 67 years. Glaucous Gulls were recorded at two sites in Staten Island and at Jamaica Bay, the Bellport Bay Yacht Club, and west of Shinnecock Inlet on Dune Road, where an immature bird was fairly reliable from at least 4 December through 6 January. Multiple Iceland Gulls were seen in every county except Bronx, and Lesser Black-backed Gull showed a similar pattern, with as many as 11 tallied on the Captree CBC. Although it didn't linger for a broader audience, the star of the gull show this winter was surely the adult **Mew Gull** photographed by Andrew Baksh at Bush Terminal Piers on 3 January.

Noteworthy sea ducks included a long-staying male Barrow's Goldeneye at Crab Meadow in Northport, Suffolk County and one of each sex in the Pelham Bay area in the Bronx. Harlequin Ducks were seen at seven locations in Suffolk County, including four on the Montauk CBC, and three wandered about Jones Inlet from late December through February. As many as three King Eiders, distinguished by sex and age, were reported from Shinnecock Inlet and environs, as well as one or more from the Orient Point ferry. Common Eiders showed a striking change in distribution, to the bay north of Shinnecock Inlet (up to 5,000) from their former stronghold at Montauk Point, where most observers reported fewer than 1,000 (with exceptions, such as the 5,000 recorded on 10 February). Scoters, likewise, made a relatively poor showing in eastern Long Island. The 458 Surf Scoters on the Montauk CBC were far fewer than the 1,446 the previous year, and most reports from Montauk registered fewer than 400. Black Scoters paralleled Common Eider; the Montauk CBC recorded only 961 (vs. 2,224 in 2017), and numbers there picked up (to 2,000 or more) only in late February. But Shinnecock Inlet and environs yielded counts of nearly 2,000 in

January. Among bay ducks, high counts of the once much more abundant Greater Scaup included, in Bronx, 3,500 in Pelham Bay Park, and 4,000 in City Island; but in Suffolk, great numbers, estimated at 25,000, staged in Great South Bay before moving elsewhere. Some high counts of Lesser Scaup included 400 in City Island, 743 at the World's Fair Marina in Queens, and in Suffolk, 450 in Eastport Lake. As for Canvasback, the Captree CBC, which over its history has an average count of 267 with a high of 2,422, scored 0, even below its recent 10-year average of 2. The highest count of this long-declining species was 141 at Eastport Lake.

Among freshwater *Anatidae*, single “**Eurasian**” **Green-winged Teal** were recorded in two Suffolk sites, and single Blue-winged Teal were found on the Montauk CBC (15 December) and on Robinson Pond, Patchogue, where a male resided throughout February. Male Eurasian Wigeons stayed for extended periods at Bush Terminal Piers Park and at Saltmarsh Nature Center in Kings County and at Avon Lake, Amityville and Makamah Preserve, Northport in Suffolk. There were additional records from Staten Island and Halsey Neck Pond in Southampton. Single Tundra Swans were seen at the Brooklyn piers and Jamaica Bay, and four flew over Shinnecock Inlet on 31 December, but probably because of an early freeze, the Hook Pond pair was elusive, reported sporadically there and nearby from 20 January to 10 February. Single-digit counts of Northern Pintail were relieved by a few high counts, such as 92 at Massapequa Preserve and 46 at Robinson Pond, Suffolk. American Wigeon was unfortunately noteworthy for its low numbers this season. CBC counts tell the story: only 23 on Montauk, 47 on Southern Nassau (a new minimum), 35 on Bronx-Westchester (lowest in more than 60 years), 202 on the Smithtown CBC (less than half the 10-year average), and missed entirely on Captree, for the first time.

The “usual rarities” among geese were recorded once again. Only a single Ross’s Goose was reported, this at a stormwater basin in Old Westbury. The same habitat, but in Lake Success, hosted the only **Pink-footed Goose**. A single Greater White-fronted Goose was spotted at Roslyn Pond, and two roamed the Riverhead sod farms and Merritt’s Pond from 11 January to 21 February. A Barnacle Goose was seen in Southold on 7 and 8 December, while another (or the same?) bird frequented the Riverhead sod fields from 6 December to 25 February. Cackling Goose may not be common, but it isn’t rare: it was reported from at least four sites in Staten Island, in mid-January and mid-February from Van Cortlandt Park in Bronx, once in Brooklyn, five sites in Nassau County (including Roslyn Pond and Arthur Hendrickson Park, where seen in previous years), and 11 sites in Suffolk County, harboring at least 15 individuals.

Hoped-for winter visitors from the north include land birds such as finches. Reports of poor seed crops to our north, as well as huge southbound flocks of Pine Siskins and Purple Finches along the barrier beaches in November, raised hopes, but winter finches were disappointingly sparse. The most abundant were Pine Siskin and Purple Finch; both were recorded in all counties, with single-

digit counts in multiple sites, throughout the season. The maximum count of Pine Siskin was 40 at Robert Moses State Park on 4 December, at the tail end of the southbound passage. Common Redpolls were most uncommon; they were reported at only six sites, with a maximum of five at Avalon Gardens in Stony Brook. Red Crossbills were few and mostly early, seen at only five sites up until 6 January. Evening Grosbeaks were recorded in four counties, the high count being six, at both Montauk and a residence in Commack. One or two birds were seen at six other locations in Nassau and Suffolk but none delighted as many observers as one found in Riverside Park, Manhattan, on the 16 December CBC, that persisted beyond the season to 4 April.

As for other winter visitors, only a single **Northern Shrike** was seen (on 18 February, in Mc Allister Park, Port Jefferson, Suffolk). In contrast, it was a big year for Red-breasted Nuthatch; for example, the Montauk CBC set a new high with 131, exceeding the 115 counted in 2007. (This CBC recorded only two in 2017.). This species was abundant through the season in some coastal sites, with numbers fairly typical of irruption years. The Captree CBC on 15 December registered two Lapland Longspurs; otherwise, one or two birds were found at four traditional sites on Long Island. Northern diurnal raptors were represented only by single Northern Goshawks in the Bronx and Staten Island, and by one or two Rough-legged Hawks at one site in Brooklyn, two in Nassau, and three in Suffolk. The resident Bald Eagles in our Region were greatly augmented, with reports from at least 17 locations in Staten Island, 10 in Manhattan, four in Bronx, nine in Brooklyn, five in Queens, 17 in Nassau, and ca. 75 in Suffolk; it is hard to know how many individuals were seen, but the species is clearly far more abundant than a few decades ago.

Snowy Owls were seen at eight coastal sites in Suffolk; at least two frequented the vicinity of Jones Beach West End to Nickerson Beach in Nassau (where they were mercilessly stalked by photographers), and one was seen at Breezy Point in Queens. Possibly others were seen but not “eBirded” by birders intent on minimizing disturbance. I applaud their concern, and urge birders not to broadcast reports of this and other sensitive species until well after the birds have departed. Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported from at least 38 locations in all counties except Richmond, and counts on some CBCs were high (e.g., nine on Smithtown and 13 on Montauk), owing to the skill and industry of enterprising owl-whisperers (see T. J. Sturm and B. Bomkamp, *Kingbird* 67(2):96-102, 2017). At least four Barred Owls in **Manhattan** (three of them in Central Park) and at least four in three Bronx sites were an unusually high number. Four Barn Owls were recorded in bay island nest boxes on the Southern Nassau CBC, one was flushed in Smith Point on the Central Suffolk CBC, and two continued in Gateway National Recreation Area. But *Asio* species continue to be disturbingly sparse: only four Long-eared Owls, in three counties, were reported, and only two Short-eared Owls, at the EPCAL grassland and in Napeague.

Among the rare or uncommon species not already mentioned, surely the most surprising was the **Magnificent Frigatebird** seen and photographed by Keith Cashman at about 3 p.m. on 22 December as it flew westward past the Ponquogue Bridge Coast Guard station—after having been recorded that morning on a Rhode Island CBC. Another major rarity was a **Varied Thrush** in Clove Lakes Park, Staten Island, that was seen (although sometimes only with patience) from 5 December to at least 31 January. A Brown Pelican was seen at Moriches Inlet on **4 January**, and Chris Gangemi found an American White Pelican on Mecox Bay, 12-16 January (et seq). Other uncommon species included a **Sandhill Crane** at Jones Beach West End on 9 December, a Common Gallinule at Blydenburgh Park, Suffolk, on **19-20 January**, a Clay-colored Sparrow in Quogue from **26 January to at least 11 February**, a Lark Sparrow in East Hampton **31 January-28 February**, a Dickcissel at Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area 27 February-3 March, single Red-headed Woodpeckers in Clove Lakes Park 19 January and Pelham Bay Park 19-23 December, and **Pileated Woodpeckers** (rare south of Westchester County) in Pelham Bay Park (long continuing after 13 December) and Nassau's Shu Swamp reserve (16 February).

A long list of warm-weather species lingered well into the winter. Relegating most details to the checklist, these “half-hardies” included Clapper Rail, Virginia Rail, American Oystercatcher, a single Semipalmated Plover, two Marbled Godwits (only to 2 December), American Woodcock (many reports, mostly in December and February, the latter perhaps including returning migrants), Wilson’s Snipe, a single Spotted Sandpiper (only six others in eBird since 1995), Greater Yellowlegs, one Willet (nine others since 1995), Common Tern (one; one other since 1995), American Bittern, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo (two in earliest December; five others since 1995), Tree Swallow, House Wren (11 sites, 10 reports in December), Marsh Wren (13 sites, 11 reports in December), Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush (one; one other since 1995), Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Pipit, White-crowned Sparrow (unusually abundant), Vesper Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow (one report; eight others since 1995), Saltmarsh Sparrow (one report), Lincoln’s Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Rusty Blackbird (a declining species, found at 34 sites, all counties), Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, and Boat-tailed Grackle. A Scarlet Tanager in the Bronx on **9 December** was the only one since 1995 (in eBird) and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a feeder in Suffolk was the third since then. Yellow-rumped Warblers were recorded at many locations, in all counties, but were unusually sparse on several CBCs, including Bronx-Westchester (only one bird), Captree, Montauk, and Southern Nassau (with a record-breaking low of 183). Orange-crowned Warblers were seen at 24 sites, in all counties, until at least 7 February. Less common or unusual warblers included Palm, Pine, Common Yellowthroat, Nashville, Ovenbird (12 others seen since 1995), and single Cape May (one

other), Yellow-throated (one other), Yellow (three others), and Tennessee (one other) Warblers.

Some of our species are notable for their changes in population. As noted earlier, Bald Eagle has increased greatly, and the 11 on Bronx-Westchester CBC set a new high. For this species and other diurnal raptors, it is very hard to know how the number of sites reported in eBird is related to the number of birds, but the well known increase of Peregrine Falcon is reflected by the dense sightings in Manhattan and some other NYC locations, in contrast to the “mere” 29 throughout Suffolk. In contrast, Northern Bobwhite was not reported, and may have suffered its predicted extirpation. The few (16) Red Knots on the Southern Nassau CBC might add to concern about this species’ plight, but a healthy 316 two years ago shows that any one count may provide little information. Dense reports of American Kestrel in Manhattan and a few places in Queens and Brooklyn contrast with only 11 reports throughout the much larger area of Suffolk County, with much more seemingly suitable habitat for this once abundant species. Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls plummeted in 1979 and have been fairly steady since; estimates of both species were somewhat below recent averages on some of this season’s CBCs. Ring-billed Gulls were below average on the Captree CBC and at their lowest in the last 10 years on the Southern Nassau CBC. The counts of Ring-billed (585), Herring (610), and Great Black-backed Gulls (72) on the Smithtown CBC were the lowest since 1979, 1956, and 1960, respectively (S. Duffy).

Climate warming has added a number of formerly more southern species to our fauna, an undoubtedly continuing process. Tufted Titmouse increased in the 1960s on the Bronx-Westchester CBC from a few singletons in the mid-1950s, and was recorded on the Montauk count only in 1979. This season, these counts registered 433 (a relatively high count) and 118 (about average), respectively. Numbers in Central Park were unusually high this winter. Northern Mockingbird became consistent on these counts in the mid-1960s, and stayed at about its recent average this season. Red-bellied Woodpecker was first recorded on the Bronx-Westchester CBC in 1969, and this year exceeded 200 for the sixth time, with 222. Boat-tailed Grackle, first recorded on the Southern Nassau CBC in January 1998, dropped to 12 on this year’s count from 243 the previous year, but estimates of up to 410 were reported from sites in Queens. Turkey Vulture has long been increasing in our Region, reported this season from at least 130 sites, and Black Vulture appears to be following suit, with a total of 13 individuals reported from six sites in Staten Island, Brooklyn, and the Riverhead area in Suffolk County. This bird bears watching. Conversely, we might ask if winter visitors will stay further north as climate warms. American Tree Sparrow might be a candidate. Numbers were very low on several CBCs, including Montauk, which has seen a steady decline since 1998, with only two recorded this season, and Bronx-Westchester, with a new minimum. Numbers on the Smithtown CBC have declined from triple digits several decades ago, to usually double digits recently, to zero this year, for the first time since 1938.

Introduced species should not be neglected, as they can have various impacts. Ring-necked Pheasant continues to decline in the Region; there were records (mostly of single birds) from four sites in Queens, one in Brooklyn, and 12 in Suffolk. Wild Turkeys were seen at six sites in the city boroughs and at least 70 sites in Suffolk, these stemming from releases in the early 1990s and again in 2004 (and in the 1950s on Gardiner's Island). Since 1966, the Montauk CBC has recorded over 100 several times; this season's count was 75, up from 30 in 2017. Monk Parakeets were reported from five counties, with greatest abundance in southern Nassau and southwestern Suffolk. The Montauk CBC's count of European Starling exceeded 1,200 the last four years, but this year dropped to 623, the lowest since 1960; it has dropped steadily for five years on the Bronx-Westchester count, but has shown similar fluctuations in the past. House Finches increased on the Montauk CBC from the first record in 1964 to a peak of 1,117 in 1994. That year, regional populations started to decline as a bacterial eye disease spread. This season's Montauk count recorded 101, down a bit from the last four years. Population changes recorded by the Bronx-Westchester CBC have been much the same, but this season's count of 72 was the lowest in 56 years.

Disease is also likely to be a significant factor in the population dynamics of some *Corvidae*, following the outbreak of West Nile virus (WNV) in 1999-2000, first in the New York City region and spreading widely from there. (Cf. "West Nile virus and wildlife" by P. P. Marra et al., 2004, BioScience 54 (5):393-402, and "West Nile virus emergence and large-scale declines of North American bird populations" by S. L. LaDeau et al., 2007, Nature 447 (7145):710-713.) American Crow was quickly identified as one of the most significantly affected species, at least based on the numbers of corpses reported. A paper in 2011 reported striking results of experimentally infecting American and Fish Crows with WNV: Fish Crows remained "clinically normal," but American Crows developed huge titers of virus, suffered inflammation and lesions in many organs and tissues, and rapidly died (N. M. Nemeth et al., 2011, Veterinary Pathology 48(6):1061-1074). Many observers have noted the decline in American Crows, compared to decades past, and some CBCs seem to bear this out. Among the CBCs I looked at, Montauk shows the least dramatic change, although numbers peaked in the late 1990s and show some decline since. Southern Nassau had 144, below the maximum (343) in the last 10 years—but compare that to the all-time high of 1,949 in 1993. Captree, similarly, had an all-time average of 535, a most-recent 10-year average of only 149, and a 2018 count of 113. The 35 recorded on the Smithtown CBC were the lowest since 1960, and a continuation of a steady decline since 2012, when the number plummeted to 251 from the 6,029 in 2011. The Bronx-Westchester CBCs show a clear presumed impact of WNV: from 1991 to 2001 averaged 2,525; from 2004 on, the average is about 390 (and only 129 this season). In contrast, Fish Crow has been much more abundant on the Bronx-Westchester CBC since 2010 than before, reaching a new high this year of 373 (almost thrice

the number of American Crows). The Southern Nassau count was 2,488 last year (a new high), and 1,237 this year (8.6 times more abundant than American Crow). On Long Island, at least one large winter crow roost that was dominated by Fish Crow, near Stony Brook, disappeared a few years ago, but Uniondale in Nassau hosts a roost of more than 1,000 Fish Crows. It seems very likely that the decline of American Crows has relieved competition and enabled growth of this WNV-resistant species' population. Perhaps the same explanation accounts for the amazing increase of Common Raven in our Region since about 2009. It was recorded from every county, ranging from three sites in Bronx to 88 in Suffolk.

For many years, I kept records of uncommon or otherwise notable species, but not of common, everyday birds. The drastic changes in crow populations (like those of common gulls years ago, when garbage dumps were capped) show that records of common species may turn out to be important in the long run.

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Klein, Katie Kleinpeter, David LaMagna, MaryLaura Lamont, Joseph Landesberg, Anthony J. Lauro, James Lee, David Lichter, Patricia J. Lindsay, Heydi Lopes, Joshua Malbin, Laura Mandell, Roberta Manion, Deborah Martin, Peter Martin, Peggy Maslow, William Mayes, Michael McBrien, Joseph McManus, Chris McVoy, Stacy & Kurt Meyerheinrich, Mari Michaelis, Eric Miller, Stella Miller, Joel Milton, Karlo Mirth, Shaibal S. Mitra, Ursula Mitra, Thomas Moran, Pete Morris, Pat Moynihan, Deborra Mullins, Ernst Mutchnick, Stefan Mutchnick, Lisa Nasta, Mary Normandia, Annie Novak, Russ Ogden, Karen O’Hearn, Todd Olson, Nathan O'Reilly, Luke Ormand, Jess Ortiz, Bill Ostrander, Joseph O’Sullivan, Patrick Palladino; Daisy Paul, Peter Paul, Robert Paxton, Richard Payne, Vinnie Pellegrino, Aidan Perkins, Tom Perlman, Stephane Perreault, Jean Pettibone, Felipe Pimentel, Sarah Plimpton, Peter Polshek, Peter Post, David Powers, Tom Preston, Robert Proniewych, David Provencher, Glen Quinn, Jose Ramirez-Garofalo, Mike Rath, RBA – NY Rare Bird Alert, Anita Regler, Peter Reisfeld, Ian Resnick, Phil Ribolow, Jeff Ritter, Adolfo Rodriguez, Derek Rogers, Kevin Rogers, Pauline Rosen, Jack Rothman, Barbara Rubinstein, Karen Rubinstein, Juan Salas, Kimberly SanFanandre, Lynne Scheibel, Mike Scheibel, Steve Schellenger, Jim Schickenrieder, Sy Schiff, Maya Shikhman, Robert Shriber, Michael Schrimpf, Eileen Schwinn, John Sepenoski, Ryan Serio, Mike Shanley, Robin Shea, John Shemilt, Sean Sime, Daniel Smith, Nadir Souirgi, Jordan Spindell, Suzi Stewart, John Stiller, Taylor J. Sturm, Paul Sweet, Robert Taylor, Russell Taylor, Nick Tepper, Ken Thompson, Louis Tognan, Nancy Tognan, Kathleen Toomey, Kevin Topping, John Turner, Phil Uruburu, Rosemary Valente, Richard Veit, James Velozzi, Joe Viglietta, Steve Walter, Jeffrey Ward, Bob Washburn, Alan Wells, Gabriel Willow, Alex Wilson, Angus Wilson, Phillip Wilson-Camhi, Jennifer Wilson-Pines, Tod Winston, Heather Wolf, Seth Ian Wollney, Maureen Wolter, Paul Wolter, Robert Young, Michael Yuan, Terence Zahner, Eric Zawatski, Amy Zerling, Michael Zito.

ABBREVIATIONS

AMNH – American Museum of Natural History; **APEC** – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BBYC** – Bellport Bay Yacht Club, SUFF; **BPdP** – Baisley Pd P, QUEE; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BRY** – Bryant P, NEWY; **BZ** – Bronx Zoo, BRON; **CIC** – Coney I Creek/P, KING; **CLP** – Clove Lakes P, RICH; **CMB** – Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CroP** – Crocheron P, QUEE; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P (aka Drier Offerman P), KING; **DP** – Democrat Pt, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **DR** – Dune Rd, CCP to Shinn, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **et seq.** – observers who saw a bird after the discoverer (from *et sequentes*, “and persons following”); **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING;

FKP – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadow-Corona P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **GBy** – Gravesend Bay, KING; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HHCG** – Hither Hills Campground, SUFF; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **JFKMWS** – John F Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, NASS; **KCP** – Kissena Corridor P, QUEE; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **Mass** – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox In, SUFF; **Mon** – Montauk, T of East Hampton, SUFF; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **MPB** – Marine P Brooklyn, KING; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **NYBG** – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; **NYIT** – New York Institute of Technology, NEWY; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **PatchL** – Patchogue L, Patchogue, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PNS** – Pine Neck Sanctuary, SUFF; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RBA** – NY Rare Bird Alert; **RI** – Randalls I, NEWY; **Riv** – Riverhead, SUFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Riis P, QUEE; **SC** – Santapogue Creek, SUFF; **SCFED** – Suffolk County Farm & Education Center, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **SMNC** – Salt Marsh Nature Center at Marine P (KING); **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **TB** – Tiana Beach, near Shinn, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **VMP** – Veterans Memorial Pier, KING.

Christmas Bird Counts: NYMK Montauk; NYNN Northern Nassau; NYSN Southern Nassau.

WATERFOWL - GREBES

Snow Goose: max 850 JBWR 13 Jan (DGo).

Ross's Goose: Old Westbury 8 Dec (SA).
Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 Riv 11

Jan (GB, A. Gilbert)-23 Feb (AnW); Roslyn Pd P 20 Jan (S. Schellenger).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Lake Success 17-20 Dec (D. Martin et al.).

Brant: max 2550 SMNC 15 Dec (m.ob.).

Barnacle Goose: Riv 6 Dec-28 Feb (ACo, G. DeLalla et seq.); Southold 7 Dec (J. Sep.).

Cackling Goose: at least 28 indivs in Region: BRON (2 sites); RICH (3 sites); KING (FBF); NASS (5 sites); SUFF 11 sites, inc 5 indivs in Riv 10 Feb (PJJL).

Canada Goose: max 5000 Riv.

Mute Swan: max 150 Watermill 13 Jan (TH).

Tundra Swan: JBWR 3 Dec (J. Bock); 4 Shinn 31 Dec (BBo, TJS); Bush Terminal

Piers P KING 2 Feb (S. Blodgett, JMa); Georgica Pd, SUFF 10 Feb (AnW).

Blue-winged Teal: Mon CBC 15 Dec; Robinson Pd, West Patchogue 1-23 Feb (MMcB).

Northern Shoveler: max 280 PP 15 Dec (D. Smith).

Gadwall: max 225 Swan L, E. Patchogue 10 Jan (KFeu).

Eurasian Wigeon: singletons at Avon L, Amityville 11 Dec-3 Feb (EMu et seq.); Bush Terminal Piers, KING 23 Jan-24 Feb (ABk); Makamah Pres, SUFF 3 Feb (R. Young et seq.); Halsey Neck Pd, SUFF 6 Feb (D. Daniels); MPB 8 Feb cont. (m.ob.).

American Wigeon: max 117, PatchL 1 Jan (PPal).

Mallard: max 859 Marratooka L 27 Jan (J. Sep.).

American Black Duck: max 2356 JFKMWS 29 Dec (S. Camillieri).

Northern Pintail: max 92 Mass 12 Dec (J. Landesberg).

Green-winged Teal: “Eurasian”: Setauket Mill Pd 27 Dec (CBC), SC 23-29 Jan (SMu).

Canvasback: RICH: 3 sites; BRON: 2 sites (max count = 10); KING: 3 sites; QUEE: 5 sites (max count = 92); NASS: 1 site; SUFF: 25 sites (max counts = 62, 98, 141, 70); *intro*.

Redhead: KING: 4 sites; QUEE: 7 sites (max counts 94 BPdP 29 Jan (ABk); 50 JBWR 29 Dec (J. O’Sullivan); NASS: 8 sites; SUFF: 20 sites, max counts 85 Avon L, Amityvile 4 Jan (EMu), 45 PatchL 19 Jan (MN).

Ring-necked Duck: max 150 Southaven CP 4 Feb (KFeu).

Greater Scaup: max counts BRON: 3500 PBP 20 Dec (RAR), 400 City Island 23 Dec (A. Burke; perhaps the same flock); SUFF: 25,000 HSP 30 Dec (JG).

Lesser Scaup: max counts BRON: 400 City Island 23 Dec (A. Burke); QUEE: 743 World’s Fair Marina 2 Jan (SP); SUFF: 300 PatchL 29 Jan (BBel), 1000 Eastport Pd 24 Feb (P. Moynahan, N. Houlihan).

King Eider: SUFF: Orient Point ferry 15 Dec (D. Provencher), 29 Dec (D. Alpeter); Southold Town Beach 29 Dec (J. Sep), f Shinn 31 Dec (BBo, TJS), male Shinn 12 Jan (PMor).

Common Eider: concentrations in SUFF at Mon: 746 15 Dec CBC; max counts 1,999 23 Jan (E. Zawatski); 5000 10 Feb (SSM, PJL); and Shinn/Ponquogue Bridge max count 5000 31 Dec (GB, TWB, PJL, SSM); *intro*.

Harlequin Duck: most at traditional sites; Jones In (JBWE to PL) 20 Dec-26 Feb, max 5 on 10 Feb (SP); SUFF: Mon: 4 15 Dec CBC, 4 29 Dec (P. Cohen); Shinn: 14 Dec-19 Jan (m.ob.), 3 26 Dec (KFeu); Moriches In 1 Feb, (C. Kessler); SPCP 2 Feb (KCa); Orient Pt CP: 2 5 Feb (P. Baker), 2 16 Feb (P. and M. Wolter); RMSP 18 Feb (KFeu).

Surf Scoter: max 1200 MP 23 Jan (E. Zawatski); *intro*.

White-winged Scoter: max 1905 Gardiner’s I 15 Dec (AnW).

Black Scoter: max 30,000 FDR Boardwalk and Beach, Staten Island 16 Feb (J. Ramírez-Garofalo).

Long-tailed Duck: max 1200 Sagamore Yacht Club, Oyster Bay 22 Feb (J. Cantor et al.).

Bufflehead: max 1000 SPCP 5 Feb (CLI Birding).

Common Goldeneye: max 265 Caumsett SP 22 Feb (KFeu, SF).

Barrow’s Goldeneye: 1 Mon (Camp Hero) 15 Dec (GB, TWB, ABk); singles PBP 30 Dec-9 Jan (RAR et al.); 2 PBP 1 Jan (RBA); 1 CMB 3 Jan-5 Feb (TJS et seq.); Sands Pt, NASS 13 Jan (G. Quinn).

Hooded Merganser: max 152 Baldwin NYSN 29 Dec (MMCB).

Common Merganser: max 164 L. Ronkonkoma 17 Feb (K. Kleinpeter).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 330 DR 9 Dec (KFeu).

Ruddy Duck: 1080 Eastport L 27 Dec (Vincent C.).

Ring-necked Pheasant: KING: Fountain Ave landfill 15 Dec (JMa); FBF 27 Jan (J. Velozzi); QUEE: Far Rockaway 16 Dec (R. Dieterich), KP 5 Feb (J. O’Sullivan), Rulers Bar Hassock 7 Feb (J. Stiller); SUFF 13 sites, max 11 near hunt club, Eastport, perhaps locally released (S. Stewart and R. Valente 5 Jan).

Wild Turkey: RICH: 4 sites, max count 80 (L. Ewing 3 Jan); SUFF: at least 65 sites; *intro*.

Horned Grebe: max 57 Great Neck Estates P 26 Jan (SP).

Red-necked Grebe: BRON: 4 reports PBP, NEWY: 1 report; KING: 5 sites, 6 Dec-27 Feb; NASS: 4 sites; SUFF: 14 sites, 3 of them with 2 indivs, 2 with 3.

RAILS-LARIDS

Clapper Rail: RICH: Seaside Wildlife Nature P 18 Feb (ACi); sole report.

Virginia Rail: 2 Mon 15 Dec (EMu); Shu Swamp, NASS 15 Dec (E. Becher), 28 Feb (B. Garriel); West Sayville 16 Dec (K. Thompson); Cedar Point CP 29 Dec (V. Bustamante, K. Rubinstein, B. Rubinstein); 2 Arshamomaque Pres. 17 Jan, 2 Feb (J. Sep); Makamah Pres. 26 Jan (JGI).

Common Gallinule: Blydenburgh P, SUFF 26-27 Jan (PDom et seq.).

American Coot: max 80 PatchL 18 Jan (KFeu, SF).

Sandhill Crane: JBWE 9 Dec (RBA).

American Oystercatcher: RICH: 2 Huguenot Beach 15 Feb. (M. Shanley); KING: FBF 21 Jan (K. O'Hearn); NASS: 1-7 indivs. JBWE 1 Dec-11 Jan, also 1 17 Feb, 2 Atlantic Beach 26 Feb (D. Lichten), PL 16 Feb (PJL, SSM); SUFF: 5 Shinn 9 Dec (E.Schwinn, M. Higgiston), 31 Dec (AP), Nap 8 Dec (LN, K. Thompson).

Semipalmented Plover: PBP 7 Dec (M. Janssen).

Killdeer: max 12 Mill Creek RICH 1 Jan (ACi).

Marbled Godwit: 2 JBWE 2 Dec (TH).

Ruddy Turnstone: reports from 1 site in BRON, 1 in KING, 4 in NASS (max count 22 Long Beach P 14 Jan, EMu), 7 in SUFF (max counts 69 NYNN 15 Dec, 105 Gardiner's I NYMK 15 Dec, AnW).

Red Knot: BPt 31 Dec (PPau); 7 Shinn 3 Jan (CFi); 2 NB 12 Jan (L. Ewing); RMSP 15 Jan (KFeu); 6 PL 16 Feb (PJL, SSM); JBWE 23 Feb (J. Schickenieder).

Sanderling: max 800 NB 2 Jan (KFeu).

Dunlin: max 2630 JBWE 29 Dec (TH, BFo).

Purple Sandpiper: 40 JBWE 29 Dec (BFo).

Wilson's Snipe: RICH: 4 reports 2 Dec (4 indivs)-31 Jan; BRON: PBP 23 Dec; KING: 26 Dec; QUEE: 1 Dec; NASS: singles 15 Dec, 9 Jan; SUFF: 5 sites incl Swan R Pres, Patchogue (1-3 indivs 9 Jan-19 Feb), Georgica Cove (2-4 indivs 19 Jan-10 Feb).

Spotted Sandpiper: West Meadow Beach Hist. District, Stony Brook 10 Dec-24 Feb (PDom et seq.).

Willet: "Western", Long Beach P 9-13 Jan (J. Gaglione et al.; identified to ssp. by MMcB).

Greater Yellowlegs: 1-3 indivs in 1 site in BRON 5 Dec; 1 site in KING 6 Dec-1 Feb; 3 in QUEE 15 Dec-17 Jan; 6 in NASS 1 Dec-4 Feb, where max count 6 Norman J Levy P 15 Jan (BBel); 4 in SUFF 6 Dec-19 Feb (DR, multiple reports).

Dovekie: QUEE: BPt 13 Jan (D. Paul, PPau); SUFF: Shinn 6 Jan (SSi), MP 7 Jan (J. DiCostanzo), 2 MP 26 Jan (AnW).

Common Murre: Mon (Camp Hero) 23 Dec (AnW); 3 Shinn 6-19 Jan (ph. by RAr, SMu, A. Regler); JBSP Field 6 8 Feb (SA, MN); moribund ind RMSP 11 Feb (C. Formanski, ph.), *intro*.

THICK-BILLED MURRE: Shinn 30 Dec (J & D Bohrer)-to 30 Jan (m.ob); JBWE 17 Jan (B. Anderson), 19 Jan (2 KFeu, SF); Mon 17 Jan (KFeu, SF); GBY to VMP 18 Jan (DGo et al.); PL 19 Jan (B. Filemyr).

Razorbill: Major invasion, single estimates to **9,000-10,000**; *intro*.

Black Guillemot: Mon 9 Dec (ACo); Shinn 23 Dec (A. Regler).

Black-legged Kittiwake: Mon 15 Dec-10 Feb, max counts 91 12 Jan (MMcB), 25 16 Jan (M. Scheibel), 12 Ditch Plains 12 Jan (MMcB); Port Jefferson harbor 16 Dec (N. Tepper); Shinn 24 Dec-13 Jan, max count 6 31 Dec (GB, TWB); 2 SPCP 27 Dec (MMcB); RMSP 5 Jan (SSM, PJL); JBWE 15 Jan (J. Girgente).

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 sites RICH; 2 KING (max count 31 CIC 20 Jan (SSi, PPau); NASS: JBWE reports of 2-7 indivs 20 Dec-19 Jan, max 60 15 Jan (J. Girgente), PL 23 Dec-19 Jan, max 20 19 Jan (B. Filemyr et al.); SUFF: ca. 12 sites, high counts 246 SPCP 27 Dec (MMcB), 500 3 Jan (AP); 160 TB (L. Betti et al.), 400 Shinn 13 Jan (ACo), 187 Camp Hero 16 Feb (M. & P. Wolter).

Black-headed Gull: JBWE 6 Dec (D. Martin)-13 Jan.; singles at KING: CIC 30 Dec, 15 Jan (M. Yuan et al.), Sheepshead Bay 10 Jan-21 Feb (m.ob.), VMP 16-17 Feb (PPau et al.); Setauket 3-27 Jan (K. Kleinpeter et seq.); Lake Montauk 10-14 Feb (BBo et al.).

Little Gull: Mon 10-16 Feb (PA et al.).

Laughing Gull: 4 reports 1 Dec: RICH (ACi), NEWY (A. Farnsworth), RMSP (SSM), and 11 SPCP to Old Inlet (MLL); JBWE 8 Dec (J. Gaglione); Port Jefferson 16 Dec (N. Tepper).

MEW GULL: ad Bush Terminal Piers P 3 Jan (ABk, ph.).

Ring-billed Gull: max 4000 Brooklyn Bridge P 10 Feb (SSI, DGo).

Herring Gull: max 2400 Staten I 15 Dec (S. Wollney).

Iceland Gull: SUFF: 7 sites 1 Dec-28 Feb, incl lasting indivs at CMB 23 Dec-28 Feb, Oldfield Pt 7 Dec-15 Feb; KING: 7 sites 15 Dec-23 Feb, incl lasting indivs at GBY 21 Jan-23 Feb; QUEE: 16 Dec, also BPt 15 Dec-13 Jan; NEWY: 4 sites 22 Dec-13 Feb; NASS: 4 sites 29 Dec-15 Feb; RICH: 3 sites 31 Jan-11 Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: RICH: 4 sites; NEWY: 2 sites incl CP; KING: 3 sites; QUEE: 2 sites; NASS: 1 JBWE, 1 JBSP; SUFF: 13 sites 1 Dec-25 Feb, max count 5 at DP 16 Dec.

Glaucous Gull: SUFF: DR 4 Dec-6 Jan (m.ob.), Shinn 11 Jan flyby (SA, MN), BBYC 15 Jan (MMcB)-26 Feb (2, 24 Feb, LN et al.); NASS: JBWE 2 Jan (D. Martin); RICH: GKP 16 Jan (T. Gabe), Joline Ave Beach 19 Jan (ACi).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 300 Shinn 1 Dec (PA).

Common Tern: Lake Montauk 13 Dec (KFeu, SF).

Black Skimmer: Bush Terminal Piers P 2 Jan (RBA).

LOONS-PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 1430 Lake Montauk In 15 Dec (BBo, MMcB).

PACIFIC LOON: Sagamore Yacht Club, Oyster Bay 3-28 Feb, m.ob. (ph J. Wilson-Pines, SSM, PJL); JBWE 16 Feb (PJL, SSM, ph.).

Common Loon: max 124 Lake Montauk In 15 Dec (BBo, MMcB).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: Shinn CG Station 22 Dec (KCa, ph.); *intro*.

Great Cormorant: max 55 BrP 13 Jan (DGo, H. Wolf).

American White Pelican: MB 12-16 Feb (C. Gangemi et seq.).

Brown Pelican: Moriches In 4 Jan (RBA).

American Bittern: JFKMWS 9 Dec (C. Cammarota); Cedar Beach 16 Dec (KFeu, SF); JBSP 26 Dec (E. Becher); DR 26 Dec-28 Jan (DR et seq.); SPCP 29 Dec (KCa); Orient 29 Dec, 17 Feb (P. Polshek); CLP 18 Jan-9 Feb (J. Kepler et seq.).

Great Egret: QUEE: 1-2 FMCP 1 Dec-12 Jan, World's Fair Marina 9-16 Dec, Powell's Cove P 16 Dec; BRON: 1-2 PBP 2 Dec-9 Jan; NASS: 15 indivs at 7 sites, to 17 Feb, but few past mid-Jan; SUFF: singles at 9 sites, to 17 Feb but few past mid-Jan.

Cattle Egret: Hither Hills 23 Dec (AnW).

Green Heron: Timber Point Golf Course 2 Dec (LN); Betts Creek In KING 12 Dec (JMa).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: NASS: 7 sites 1 Dec-26 Feb, max 30 Cammans Pd P 12 Jan; QUEE: 6 sites, 1 Dec-23 Jan, max count 9 FMCP; SUFF: 12 sites 2 Dec-24 Feb, max 12 Ketcham's Creek 11 Jan; NEWY: 2 sites, 3 Dec-12 Jan; KING: 5 sites, 7 Dec-28 Feb; BRON: 3 sites, 10 Dec-23 Jan.

Black Vulture: RICH: 7 sites, 1-3 indivs each; NEWY: 3 CP 1 Dec (G. Henry); SUFF: North Fork Pres 4 Jan (SSM), 1-2 Riv and environs 6-25 Feb (m.ob.), 2 Riv 10 Feb (SA, MN); KING: 2 GwC 10 Feb (K. Topping).

Turkey Vulture: max 31 Riverhead Supreme Court 8 Jan (PPal).
Osprey: SUFF: Argyle L 3 Dec (EMu), Blydenburgh CP 6 Dec (R. Gostic).
Northern Goshawk: CR 6 Dec (ACi); NYBG 23 Dec (ABk).
Bald Eagle: max 10 Wave Hill, BRON 10 Feb (The Wildlab).
Rough-legged Hawk: SUFF: 2 Gardiner's I 15 Dec NYMK (AnW), Jessup's Neck SUFF 29 Dec (MLL), EPCAL 22 Jan (KFeu, SF); KING: Canarsie Beach P 19 Jan (AnW); NASS: Loop Pkwy 16 Feb (PJM, SSM).
Barn Owl: 1-2 Gateway National Recreation Area 26 Jan-27 Feb; SPCP 27 Dec (MMcB), 4 NYSN CBC 29 Dec.
Snowy Owl: KING: FBF 20 Dec (G. Keri); QUEE: BrP 15 Dec-26 Jan (m.ob.), FT 1 Jan (CFi); NASS: 1-2 NB 29 Dec-12 Jan, JBWE 1 Dec-17 Feb; SUFF: 8 coastal sites, RMSP (1, 6 Jan, MN) east to L. Montauk In 15 Dec (BBo, MMcB); repeated sightings SPCP 23 Dec-6 Jan, 1-2 indivs DR 8 Dec-26 Feb; undetermined number of indivs at sites with repeated sightings.
Barred Owl: BZ 1 Dec-8 Feb, 2 on 26 Dec (T. Olson); 4, possibly 5 CP, throughout park, 1 Dec-18 Jan; 3 PBP 5 Dec-24 Feb (m.ob.); Fort Tryon P 4 Jan-3 Feb, IHP 17 Jan (D. Hannay et al.).
Long-eared Owl: FPF 2 Dec (JMa); Fort Tryon P 7 Dec (F. Pimentel et al.); RMSP 12 Dec (W. Mayes); Bridgehampton 23 Dec (ACo); JFKMWS 29 Dec (S. Camillieri, NYSN CBC).
Short-eared Owl: Nap 14 Dec (GB, TWB); EPCAL 19 Jan-9 Feb (PA, E. Zawatski).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: BRON: singletons at PBP, BZ; NEWY: 1-2 CP North End 20 Dec-26 Jan, (U. Mitra et al.), 1-3 or 4 CP Ramble 1 Dec-7 Feb (m.ob.); KING: PP 13 Jan-6 Feb (R. Payne et al.), 2 FBF 27 Jan (J. Velozzi); QUEE: 2 RP 15 Dec (RAR), FT 23 Dec (CFi), 22 Feb (L. Kahle), Charles

Memorial P 16 Dec (R. Serio), 1-2 FP 1-27 Jan (CFi et al.); NASS 9 sites 12 Dec-23 Feb; SUFF 27 sites, max counts 6 Oldfield 17 Dec (TJS), 5 MP 15 Dec (TJS, TH), 4 Wicks Farm Pres 26 Jan (TH).

Red-headed Woodpecker: PBP 19-23 Dec (J. Rothman et al.); CLP 19 Jan (CB et al.).

Northern Flicker: max 26 FBF 15 Dec (A. Burke, HJ Kim, J. Drucker).

Pileated Woodpecker: PBP 5 Dec-18 Feb (P. Horan et al.); CR 10 and 20 Feb (ACi); Shu Swamp Nature Pres, NASS 10 Feb (PPal et al.).

American Kestrel: numerous reports from all counties; *intro*.

Merlin: numerous reports from all counties.

Peregrine Falcon: numerous reports from all counties; *intro*.

Monk Parakeet: BRON: 8 BZ, 2 PBP, 21 Fort Schuyler; KING: 10 5th Ave, 15 GwC; QUEE: 9 121 St., 13 Hawtree Creek; NASS: 18 sites, including 105 Valley Stream, 68 Baldwin (NYSN CBC), 18 Norman Levy P; SUFF: 18 Ketcham's Creek, 27 Copiague, 35 Irmisch P, 9 sites in Lindenhurst-Amityville, Oldfield Pt 8 Dec (PDom, unusual site).

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: single indivs in RICH: 2 sites, 1 Jan, 10 Jan; BRON: BZ 1 Dec-16 Jan (1-3 indivs); NEWY: 2 sites, 15 Dec-8 Jan; KING: 4 sites, 3 Dec-27 Jan; QUEE: 2 sites, 1 Dec-21 Jan; NASS: 3 sites, 15 Dec-16 Feb (TH); SUFF: ≥ 5 sites, to 21 Feb (PDom).

Northern Shrike: McAllister P, SUFF 18 Feb (TJS, J. Ortiz et seq.).

Blue-headed Vireo: Mineola (NASS) 2 Dec (BFo); PP 21 Jan (K. O'Hearn, M. Brawer).

Blue Jay: max 100 CP 15 Dec (P. Dorosh), 5 Jan (J. Ward).

American Crow: max 450 108 St., NEWY 15 Dec (PPau, M. Yuan, C. Eliot); *intro*.

Fish Crow: max 900 Hempstead Plains Pres 29 Dec (C. Eliot); *intro*.

Common Raven: approx number of reported sites: RICH 20, NEWY 14, BRON 8, KING 16, QUEE 16, NASS 30, SUFF 85; max count 5 NYBG 8 Dec (D. Mullins, T. Zahner); *intro*.

Horned Lark: max 102 JBWE 29 Dec (m.ob.).

Tree Swallow: RICH: GKP, 2 Fort Wadsworth (to 2 Jan); KING: 20 Coney I 4 Dec, 10 Manhattan Beach (to 13 Jan), 1-7 MPB (to 15 Dec), 1-11 PlumbB (to 15 Dec), FBF; QUEE: 3 Rockaway 11 Dec, 2 Edgemere 1 Dec, BrP 8 Dec-6 Feb, high counts 76 15 Dec, 45 13 Jan, 25 16 Jan, last 8 16 Feb; NASS: 6 sites incl 35 PL 1 Jan, JBWE many reports incl 115 8 Dec, 30 15 Dec, then single digit reports, last 1 31 Dec; SUFF: 9 sites incl Massapequa 12 Jan, 11 SC 17 Dec, 6 Ocean Parkway 27 Dec, 8 Overlook Beach 16 Dec and 1 on 2 Jan, 3 RMSP 31 Dec, 5 Gardiner's I 15 Dec.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 57, Mon 15 Dec NYMK (MMcB).

Tufted Titmouse: unusually abundant in CP; higher counts incl. 36 North End 19 Dec (V. Castanho); 70 Ramble 4 Feb (D. Chernack, "precise count"), 60 Ramble 13 Feb (AMNH bird group).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 23 Nap 15 Dec (M. Scheibel); *intro*.

House Wren: BZ 26 Dec (T. Olson); NYIT 15 Dec (L. DiNapoli); Marcus Garvey P, NEWY 11 Dec (T. Collins); NASS: Halfmoon Bay 15 Dec (L. DiNapoli), Roslyn Pd 15 Dec (S. Schellenger, J. Gaglione), Mass 26 Dec (J. Kepler); SUFF: Wading River 29 Dec (J. Lee), Shelter I 29 Dec (S. Stewart, R. Valente), Mecox Road 13 Jan (DF, PDom), Hidden Ponds Pres 22 Dec (ACo).

Marsh Wren: RICH: 3 River Rd 15 Dec (ACi); KING: 2 MPB, to 15 Dec (H. Lopes et al.); QUEE: JBWR 19 Dec (C. Frome et al.), APEC 19 Jan (I. Resnick, N. Tognan, L. Tognan); NASS: Crescent Beach 16 Dec (PPal), Pearsall's Hammock 29 Dec (SP); SUFF: Mott Lane 2 Jan (M. Scheibel), Terrell River CP 27 Dec (SMu), Arshamomaque Pres 21-24 Feb (J. Sep et seq.), Sagg Main 19 Jan (AnW), Georgica Cove 10 Feb (AnW), 4 Mon 15 Dec (TJS, TH, T. Dunn).

Carolina Wren: max 35 Huntington 26 Jan (BFo, BBo).

Eastern Bluebird: NEWY: CP 2 Jan (F. Pimentel); BRON: 2 local sites 16 Feb (D. Powers); KING: 5 sites, max count 10 FBF 1 Dec (T. Preston); QUEE: APP 19 Dec (J. Landesberg); NASS: Shu Swamp Pres 6 11 Feb (MN), Caumsett SP latest 4 Feb (KFeu, SF); SUFF: 9 sites, max count 16 SMSP 27 Dec (BBo), latest 9 EPCAL 26 Feb (J. Milton).

Hermit Thrush: max 14 Mon 15 Dec NYMK (GB).

Wood Thrush: Quogue Wildlife Refuge 13-19 Jan (PA et seq.).

Variety THRUSH: CLP 5 Dec (CB)-19 Jan (m.ob.).

Brown Thrasher: NEWY: CP 5 Dec-16 Feb, 45 St. park 4 Dec-25 Feb, Peter Detmold P 8 Jan; BRON: PBP 7 Dec, 24 Feb; NASS: 5 sites, 3 Dec-22 Feb; SUFF: 15 sites 2 Dec-27 Feb.

Bohemian Waxwing: 1 h Stillwell Woods P 1 Dec (TH).

Cedar Waxwing: max 80 CP 5 Dec (T. Winston, m.ob.).

American Pipit: max 26 Edgemere Landfill, QUEE 16 Dec (CFi); mostly 1 or 2 indivs at 1 site in RICH, 3 in KING, 2 in QUEE, 3 in NASS, 9 in SUFF.

Evening Grosbeak: NEWY: Riverside P 16 Dec thru (CBC, K. Fung), CP 12 Dec (T. Zahner et al.); QUEE: BPt area 15 Dec (P. Wilson-Camhi et al.), JBWR 2 Dec (J. Bock); NASS: 2 Baxter Estates 2 Dec (P. Maslow), 2 Bayville 2 Dec (B. Garriel), Stillwell Woods P 1 Dec (TH), HLSP 3 Dec (BBel), JBWE 4 Dec (B. Anderson); SUFF: E. Northport 2 Dec (K.).

SanFanandre), Mount Sinai 3 Dec (R. Adamski), 6 Mon 1 Dec (P. Rosen).

House Finch: max 80 JBWR 2 Jan (N. Tognan).

Purple Finch: mostly single-digit numbers at 8 sites in RICH, 5 in NEWY, 3 in BRON, 9 in KING, 5 in QUEE, 15 in NASS, 24 in SUFF; max 20 St. John's Pd Pres, SUFF 19 Jan (C. Cammarota, R. Taylor).

Common Redpoll: NEWY: Randall's I P 20 Jan (A. & C. Davidson-Onsgard); QUEE: 3 Breezy Pt area 15 Dec (SSi et al., CBC); SUFF: 2 SMSP 1 Dec (SSM, PJL), ≤ 5 Avalon Gardens, Stony Brook 22-25 Jan (PDom et seq.), SPCP 27 Dec (C. McVoy, MMcB), Mon 15 Dec (MMcB).

Red Crossbill: KING: FBF 8 Dec (T. Preston); NASS: 4 JBWE 6 Jan (TH, PPAl); SUFF: 4 RMSP 31 Dec (D. LaMagna), 6 Captree CBC East territory 16 Dec (K. Thompson et al.), 11 Cedar Beach (Brookhaven) 1 Dec (AP).

Pine Siskin: max 40 RMSP 4 Dec (DF); mostly single-digit counts in RICH (6 sites), NEWY (CP), BRON (3 sites), KING (5 sites, max count 19, PP 1 Dec), QUEE (JBWR), NASS (10 sites, max count 7 Shu Swamp 8 Dec), SUFF (30 sites, latest 28 Feb).

American Goldfinch: max 120 RMSP 1 Dec (AP, J. Ward, M. Harbison), also 4 Dec (DF).

Lapland Longspur: SPCP 11-12 Dec (KCa, B. Bull); JBWE 15 Dec (ACo); Captree CBC East territory 16 Dec (LN et al.); DP 16 Dec Captree CBC (PJL); RMSP 27 Dec (SSM); NB 29 Dec (ABk)-8 Jan; RMSP 13 Jan (DF).

Snow Bunting: RICH: GKP 3 Dec-1 Jan, max count 17 on 9 Dec (CB); KING: 6 sites, max count 35 BPt 25 Dec (B. Klein, D. Gustafson); QUEE: 2 sites; NASS: 7 sites, all coastal, 1 Dec-26 Feb, max count 100 JBWE 11 Dec (J. Landesberg); SUFF: ca. 23 sites 1 Dec-26 Feb, mostly coastal; max count 180 DP 16 Dec Captree CBC (PJL, SSM).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Chipping Sparrow: RICH: 4 sites, latest 2 GKP 16 Jan (T. Gabe); NEWY: 3 sites, latest CP 28 Feb (m.ob.); BRON: 2 sites, max 7 NYBG 23 Dec (ABk); KING: 5 sites, max 5 GwC 28 Feb (T. Coughlan); QUEE: 8 sites, max 9 KP 3 Dec (C. Castillo); latest FP 17 Feb (C. Castillo); NASS: 9 sites, max 10 Manhasset 1 Jan (SP); latest 1 HLSP 24 Feb (B. Berlingeri); SUFF: 10 sites; max 6 Quail Hill, Amagansett 23 Dec (J. Giunta), latest Nissequogue R SP 27 Feb (K. Coyle).

Clay-colored Sparrow: East End Community Organic Farm, Easthampton 5 Dec (DR); Quogue 27 Jan (m.ob.) to at least 11 Feb, last report (DR).

Vesper Sparrow: Stillwell Woods P 1 Dec (BFo, SP); APP 4 Dec (J. Keane); Caumsett SP 10 Dec (SF); 4-5 SCFED 25 Jan-16 Feb (MMcB et seq.).

Lark Sparrow: TNC Center for Conservation, SUFF 31 Jan-28 Feb (DR et al.).

American Tree Sparrow: max 30 Hulse Landing Rd, SUFF 7 Feb (K. Coyle).

Seaside Sparrow: PlumbB 15 Dec (m.ob.).

Saltmarsh Sparrow: Gardiner P, SUFF 11 Dec (KFeu, SF).

Lincoln's Sparrow: NEWY: E 52 St 1 Dec (A. Farnsworth), IHP 2 Dec (N. O'Reilly), CP 3 Dec (T. Zahner), RI 9 Dec (D. Barrett); KP 8 Dec (P. Reisfeld); 1 SC 23 Feb (PMor).

White-throated Sparrow: max 230 CP 16 Dec (J. Spindel).

White-crowned Sparrow: ca. 48 sites, all counties; max 62 East End Community Organic Farm, East Hampton 10 Feb (AnW).

Dark-eyed Junco: max 100 GwC 4 Dec (K. Toomey).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Mon 15 Dec (JGl, NYMK); HHCG 27 Dec (KFeu,

SF), 17 Jan (SF); DR week of 1-7 Jan (RBA); CLP 14-21 Jan (T. Gabe et seq.).

Eastern Meadowlark: FKP 2 Dec (J. Pettibone, M. Herman); QUEE: McGuinness Blvd 17 Feb (A. Novak), 4 Edgemere Landfill 1 Dec, 4 Dec (CFi), 4 Far Rockaway 16 Dec (R. Dieterich); SUFF: Caumsett SP 4 Dec (KFeu, SF), 6 Green Pt 24 Feb (R. Ogden), Mott Lane Brookhaven 2 Jan (M. Scheibel), 1-2 SCFED 7-17 Feb (MMCb et seq.), max 22 EPCAL 26 Feb (J. Milton), 3-5 Wainscott Pd 14-23 Feb (KFeu, SF, C. Gangemi), 2 Further Lane, East Hampton 1 Dec (L. Tognan).

Baltimore Oriole: RICH: Trap House 9 Dec-17 Jan (M. Shanley), local 12 Dec (M. Shikhman); NEWY: Fort Tryon P 1 Jan, 21 Jan (T. Gray), Lenox Ave 6 Dec (T. Collins); BRON: Wave Hill 9 Dec (P. Keim); SUFF: West Babylon feeder 30 Dec (LN ph, for home owner), West Islip 23 Dec (EMu).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000 Reeves Ave Buffalo Farm, SUFF 25 Feb (N. Houlihan, P. Moynahan).

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1000 SCFED 28 Jan (SK, KFeu).

Rusty Blackbird: 1 site in RICH, 2 in NEWY, 4 in BRON (high counts 42 NYBG 23 Dec (ABk); 40 VCP 3 Jan (anon), 1 in KING, 4 in QUEE (max 21 KP 23 Dec (J. O'Sullivan), 5 in NASS, max 28 Shu Swamp 24 Feb (TH), 17 in SUFF, max 35 Hidden Pond P 6 Jan (D. LaMagna).

Common Grackle: max 2000 Wertheim NWR 4 Jan (SSM); 2000 Southaven CP, SUFF 28 Jan (SF, KFeu).

Boat-tailed Grackle: RICH: 9 sites, max 58 Tysens Ln 3 Jan (ACi); QUEE: 4 sites, max 410 JBWR 3 Dec (J. Bock); NASS 4 sites (single-digit counts); SUFF: 3 sites Gilgo to RMSP, max 25 23 Dec (PPal), 3 Ponquogue Bridge 23 Feb (D. Mullins).

Ovenbird: Union Sq, NEWY 13 Dec-15 Jan (A. Deutsch et seq.); Carl Schurz P NEWY 28 Dec (E. Gaillard); BZ 15-17 Jan (T. Olson); CP 23 Jan (E. Gaillard).

Tennessee Warbler: West Meadows Wetlands Reserve, SUFF 9-23 Dec (PDom et seq.).

Orange-crowned Warbler: RICH: 7 sites, latest GKP 23 Jan (L. Ewing); NEWY: E. 52 St 1 Dec (A. Farnsworth), Morningside P 25 Dec (P. Ribolow)-9 Jan; KING: 4 sites, latest CVP 1-23 Jan (AxW); QUEE: 5 sites, latest CroP 1 Feb (J. Keane); NASS: 5 sites, latest West Babylon 7 Feb (J. Christopher); SUFF: 6 sites, latest 18 PNS 18 Jan (DR).

Nashville Warbler: SMNC 6 Dec (JMa); KCP 8 Dec (P. Reisfeld), 3 Jan (J. Keane); Bushwick In 19 Dec (A. Duvall); JBWE 29 Dec (BBo, TJS, PMor).

Common Yellowthroat: NEWY: Battery P 14 Dec (CB), Union Square P 4 Dec (A. Deutsch)-26 Feb, BRY 8 Dec (D. Gustafson)-16 Dec; HSP 1 Dec (HJ Kim, B. Washburn); Stillwell Woods P, NASS 2 Dec (PPal); Oldfield, SUFF 9 Dec (M. Schrimpf), Mon 15 Dec (PJL, SSM); Forge R, SUFF 27 Dec (MLL).

Cape May Warbler: Union Square P, NEWY 17 Dec (R. Bate)-9 Jan (m.ob.).

Yellow Warbler: 1 wastewater treatment plant, KING 15 Dec (JMa, ph).

Palm Warbler: RICH: 15 Dec (S. Wollney); NEWY: IHP 2 Dec (N. O'Reilly), Randall's I 7 Dec (J. Keane); KING: GwC 24 Dec (R. Manian), 27 Dec (J. Keane); SMNC 4 Dec (J. Salas, R. Bourque)-10 Jan; QUEE: 2 FMCP 16 Dec (C. Castillo)-7 Jan, BPdP 1 Dec (CFi); NASS: HLSP 12 Jan (BBel), JBSP 1 Dec (E. Becher), 4 Dec (B. Anderson); SUFF: Cedar Beach, Babylon 16 Dec (SF, KFeu), RMSP 4 Dec (SSM), CCP 4 Dec (G. DeLalla et al.).

Pine Warbler: NASS: Syosset 15 Feb (A. Zerling); SUFF: CRSP 30 Dec (K. Hart), Ronkonkoma 23 Feb (A. Regler, ph.), 2 Southaven CP 19 Jan (SMu, ph), 21 Feb (P. Baker, ph), East Hampton Oaks 7 Dec-3 Jan (L. Mandell, ph.).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 95 JBWE 10 Feb (SP).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Baldwin, NASS feeder 29 Dec NYSN, cont from earlier in month (MMcB, PJL, SSM).

Prairie Warbler: PBP 19 Dec (J. Rothman, J. McManus, ph).

Scarlet Tanager: ad male Wave Hill, BRON 9 Dec (P. Keim and group).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: imm male Mastic, SUFF feeder (M. Michaelis, ph).

Dickcissel: OMNSA 27-28 Feb (M. Farina et al., ph).

ADDENDA

The following reports were inadvertently left out of the Region 10 Fall 2018 report (KB Vol 69, No. 1):

Western Kingbird: RMSP 4 Nov (P. Morris & JGI ph, et al.).

Northern Shrike: HSP 11 Nov (JGI), ph.



Thick-billed Murre and Razorbill, Shinnecock Inlet, *Suffolk*, 1 Jan 2019, © Shai Mitra.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

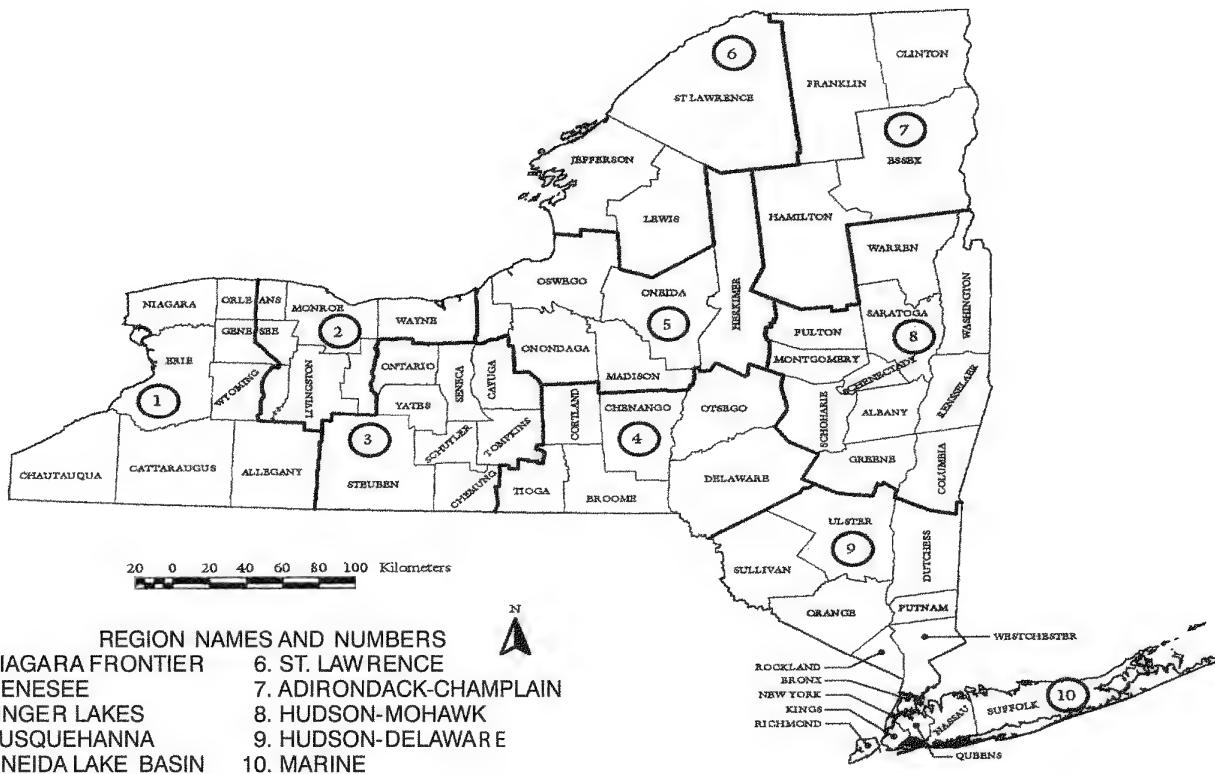
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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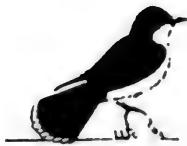
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Front Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Five Rivers EEC, Albany, 4 May 2019, © Scott Stoner.
Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Fort Niagara, Niagara, 22 May 2019, © Josh Ketry.

A COMMON GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*) ON LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, 5-6 MAY 2019

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Abstract—A Common Greenshank at Timber Point Golf Course in Great River, Suffolk County, New York, established the first definitive record for New York State, the third for the eastern United States, and the eleventh for the western North Atlantic.

The Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) is a widespread Palearctic species, breeding mainly below the Arctic Circle, from northern Scotland east across northern Europe and Asia, to the Kamchatka Peninsula. It winters widely in southern Africa, southern Asia (including the Philippines), and Australia, with a few remaining in Europe as far north as the British Isles. It is regular in spring in the Bering Sea region but is an extremely rare vagrant elsewhere in North America.

Mlodinow (1999) reviewed the species' known occurrence in the New World, listing 54 records. The great bulk of these, 47 records involving 93 individuals, came from the Bering Sea region (western Aleutian Islands, Pribilof Islands, and St. Lawrence Island), from 1962 to 1997, mostly during spring. It should be noted that many of these line item records represent spring season totals or maxima for favorable sites (e.g., 15 at Shemya 16-31 May 1976 and a seasonal max of 6 at Attu 22-31 May 1981).

Away from this region, he noted just seven records: four from Barbados (12 Mar 1980, 3 Oct 1980, 9 Oct 1990, and 18-19 Nov 1996) and three from eastern Canada (Riverhead, NL, many dates 3 Dec 1983 through 2 Feb 1985; Cherry Hill, NS, 24 Sep through 1 Oct 1988; and St. Gedeon, QC, 1-3 May 1983). Not covered by Mlodinow but relevant to the present record are historical records from Bermuda (18 Oct to 21 Dec 1965, A. Dobson, pers. comm.); Puerto Rico (near Guanica 22 Jul 1993: *Field Notes* 49: 204); and sight records from Tobago (Buccoo Jul 1977) and Trinidad ("early 1987"), "in each case beside a pool on a flooded savannah" (ffrench 2012).

More recent records include two new records from Alaska away from the Bering Sea islands (Kodiak Island, 13-19 Jun 2008: NAB 62: 602; and Nome, 30 May 2016: Hajdukovich 2016) and also California's first state record, a juvenile,

at Mad River Estuary, Humboldt County, 27 Aug through 15 Sep 2001 (NAB 56: 101-102). This was followed by an adult the next year (18-25 Oct 2002), believed to represent the same returning individual (Cole and McCaskie 2004). In eastern North America/northwestern Atlantic, there have been additional records from Newfoundland (27-29 May 2001, from the same site as the first!), Bermuda (23-31 May 2009: NAB 63:518-521), and three more from Barbados: 1 Nov 2003, 11 Feb-9 Apr 2007 (both Buckley et al. 2009), and 4 Apr 2013 (Julian Moore, fide P. A. Buckley).

And, at long last, the eastern USA has finally produced confirmed records in the last decade. The first involved a photo of a shorebird initially identified as a Greater Yellowlegs. This was fortuitously reevaluated and identified as a hatching-year Common Greenshank, and the date (8 Dec 2014) and location (Gloucester, Essex County, MA) were confirmed by the photographer, finally establishing a record for the Atlantic coast of the United States (Williams and Trimble 2018). Just two weeks after this re-discovery, New Jersey added another, an adult in basic plumage at Edwin B. Forsythe NWR which remained from 23 Oct to 11 Nov 2017 (Brown et al. 2019).

In addition to these, there is also a sight report from Onondaga Lake, NY 30 Aug 1962 (Propst and Peakall 1962). Although the documentation associated with this report was not adequate to support definitive acceptance of such an extraordinary occurrence (Able et al. 1992), this report was published by Bull (1974), under his *Hypothetical* category, and regarded by Mlodinow (1999) as likely correct. We have reviewed the original documentation for this report and agree with these authors, and also the NYS Avian Records Committee reviewers, regarding its plausibility but also its limitations. We also wish to clarify the correct date of this report: it was 30 August 1962, as originally published, not 30 October, as stated in the NYSARC report.

PJL'S ACCOUNT

On the stormy morning of 5 May 2019, Shai and I were patrolling our usual haunts in coastal southwestern Suffolk County, NY. Noting the prolonged and blustery northeast winds and bouts of intense rain, we were deliberately searching for rare birds. Late in the morning we decided to execute what Shai calls our “pincers maneuver” wherein we divide our efforts to cover both edges of the western Great South Bay: while he scoured the outer beach for Lesser Black-backed Gulls and other mobile, oceanic species affected by the storm, I focused on the rain puddles and marsh edges at Heckscher State Park and Timber Point Golf Course, across the bay. At Timber Point, the storm had resulted in puddling and ponding on the fairways and—importantly—no golfers on the course. It was the perfect scenario for detecting migrating shorebirds put down by the weather. Activity and turnover were even more dynamic than I had hoped, and this kept my anticipation high for the better part of an hour. A few Lesser Yellowlegs and Willets and a Short-billed

Dowitcher were moving around, and the number of Greater Yellowlegs was building slowly.

As I was about to call it quits I made one more circuit—and spied a large, very pale shorebird, resting on its belly with its bill tucked, at the edge of a puddle that had for the past half hour hosted only a few Greater Yellowlegs and Willets. This was the very puddle where, a year earlier, I had found a Wood Sandpiper under similar stormy conditions! After an interminable wait, the bird finally awakened and showed its legs and bill. Suspecting its identity, I called SSM, describing the bird but not yet naming it. Unprompted, he queried me about several points that I understood were intended to distinguish Common Greenshank from Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, and Bar-tailed Godwit. As I scribbled notes and consulted Mularney et al., I became more confident this was in fact a greenshank, but I felt puzzled by what appeared to be pinkish legs—and paralyzed by the improbability of finding another Palearctic *Tringa* at this very puddle! Shai arrived and the pincers closed. Scoping from our separate cars in the rain, we were in contact by phone. He asked me to look at the book as he studied the bird and independently described several specific details of the plumage, apart from the most familiar ones associated with recognizing a greenshank—for instance, the size, shape, and configuration of the black ventral markings; the shape and irregular spacing of black-centered alternate-plumaged feathers on the back; and the intensity and pattern of streaking on the head and face. As I confirmed that each of his impressions of these secondary features matched the reference materials, he declared it a Common Greenshank! For me, the pinkish legs were unexpected, but Shai was quite sure that the legs looked greenish enough. At this point we reported the bird to the birding community. Almost 100 observers saw the Common Greenshank that afternoon, and, like the Wood Sandpiper a year earlier, this bird remained overnight into the morning of the second day.

DISCUSSION

Whereas Spotted Redshank (*T. erythropus*) has occurred numerous times in the eastern United States, Mlodinow (1999) specifically noted the absence of such records for Common Greenshank, through 1999. The few records then known from the western North Atlantic involved three records at widely varying dates from eastern Canada and four records from late fall through early spring from Barbados. The over-representation of records from this one small island is notable, as Barbados is famed as a locus for vagrants straying from the southbound Palearctic to Africa route. Among the nine western North Atlantic records from north of the West Indies, no fewer than four have been from May, over a very wide latitudinal range (Bermuda, NY, QC, NL), suggesting that these, and possibly also the three records from September and October, pertain to birds that crossed the Atlantic at low latitudes in fall, wintered at low latitude, then resumed migratory movements with (or at least similar to those of) their Nearctic

congeners. The role of Long Island birders in the early recognition of this model of occurrence is worth noting here. Eisenmann (1960) and Bull (1964) articulated the model to explain the preponderance of spring vs. fall records, and of adults vs. juveniles, among what were then regarded as surprisingly large numbers of records of Curlew Sandpiper and Ruff on Long Island. The hatching-year greenshank in MA in Dec is an exception that hints at future discoveries.

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A GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) IN DELAWARE COUNTY: NEW YORK'S FOURTH

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On the morning of 30 December, 2018 I left my Livingston Manor home for Delaware County to scout for our CBC on 5 January. The snow had started a little earlier in the morning and continued as I headed to my car. I debated whether I should wait until the snow stopped. There is a long climb on Route 206 going over the mountain prior to Downsville and I was afraid of getting stuck. I decided to try to make it. Per my usual, I left just prior to sunrise to reach Downsville early, when the birds would be most active.

My ride was largely uneventful. By the time I arrived in Downsville there were a couple of inches of snow under clear skies. I drove down River Road and looked for birds feeding by the edge of the fields and road such as Horned Larks, Snow Buntings or Lapland Longspurs. Other than some Mourning Doves and a Red-tailed Hawk it was very quiet. After a mile or so I turned around and headed back toward the usually-productive Bridge Street. I was hoping to find American Tree Sparrows for the CBC as I hadn't seen any for a few weeks.

Driving with my window down, I come upon the intersection with Depot Road. I heard sparrows in a tangle to my left. I pulled to the roadside and noticed movement in the vegetation. There was a mix of sparrow species present. In all, there were approximately a dozen birds made up of Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated Sparrows and American Tree Sparrows. As I watched them, a large sparrow flew to a branch adjacent the American Tree Sparrows.

Initially, its size and structure appeared to be an immature White-crowned Sparrow but something didn't look correct. The face was more uniform brown and lacked the gray nape of a White-crowned Sparrow and the bill was bi-colored, not pink. The stripes on the crown didn't look correct, either. The stripe through the eye wasn't as prominent as on a White-crowned Sparrow. As I was looking at the head stripes the bird lowered its head slightly and I could see the small patch of gold between the stripes. I then realized I was looking at a first-year Golden-crowned Sparrow. Upon checking my Sibley Guide I felt confident of the ID.

I then called my friend John Haas and told him I was 99 percent sure I was looking at a Golden-crowned Sparrow. I told him to meet me for observation and to bring his camera, as my photographs were inadequate. John confirmed he would meet me. Knowing John's trip was an hour, I searched my phone for west coast bird photographer blogs to find pictures of Golden-crowned Sparrows in different plumages. I found one blog that had many pictures of this species including many of first-year birds. I became sure the bird I found was a Golden-crowned Sparrow. When John arrived we were able to locate the bird within

approximately 15 minutes in a bush next to a porch on Depot Street where the owner had put out seed on the railings. John was able to get good pictures of the bird.

At this point we called Tom Burke and Gail Benson to inform them of the find. We also contacted Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay. John sent them his pictures for feedback. Shai also had a work colleague review the photos, as he is very familiar with west-coast bird identification. After approximately an hour, Tom called to tell us the bird looked good for a Golden-crowned Sparrow. They were all on their way up. The bird left at this point and we attempted to relocate it prior to everyone's arrival. Once everyone arrived we searched until dusk but were never able to find the bird again that day.

I decided not to disclose the bird's location that evening, having not been able to speak with the area residents. I wanted to give them an opportunity to decide if they were willing to host a large number of birders and photographers on their tiny street before I made the location public. As word leaked about the bird many people were understandably frustrated the location wasn't made public. The next morning, I met with two of the homeowners on Depot Street. I spoke with the woman who owned the aforementioned porch and the bush where we had seen the bird the prior day. I also spoke with the couple across the street as they had many bird feeders. I knew if the bird favored the bush across the road many people would be in front of their property. Finally, I spoke with the homeowner on River Road directly across from Depot Street as it was the property on which I discovered the bird originally.

I explained what species the bird was and where its normal range was. I explained it was only the fourth record of this species in New York State, and the first since November 1995. It was also the only inland record of this species in New York. All the previous accepted records had been from Long Island. I explained once the location was made public they could expect anywhere from 20-50 people at once on their street looking for, or viewing the bird. They were thrilled about the bird and had no objections to making the location public.

Later that day, John posted the information on the New York listserv and mentioned my blog site so people could stay informed on the bird. The next morning I called the local police department and started my conversation with "This maybe one of the stranger calls you may ever get..." I explained they may start getting calls from nearby residents concerning people walking up and down River Road and Depot Street with binoculars, scopes and camera equipment. The officer asked me about the bird and thanked me for the call.

In the days and weeks ahead, as expected, many birders came to see the bird. For the first month, the bird had a regular morning routine. It was almost always in the presence of White-throated Sparrows. They roosted overnight in the tangle where I first discovered the bird. Amazingly, you could be there at first light and swear there wasn't a bird in the tangle, but then it was alive with sparrows. Often the bird would first be found in the tangle or weeds around it. After it was done it would fly, along with the White-throated Sparrows, to Depot Street and could be

found on the porch railing eating seed or in the bush next to the railing. Sometimes it would feed on the ground near the porch as well. For the bird's entire stay it was extremely hard to find after 11:00 a.m. Where the flock went is a mystery.

During its stay it was almost always found in the vegetation on River Road across from Depot Street or in the yard with the porch on Depot Street. A couple of times it was also located on Bridge Street. The last time the bird was seen, to my knowledge, was by me on 6 April on Bridge Street. It had been two weeks since I had last seen the bird. It was a pleasant surprise to find it once again. Based on the date, I knew it was likely this would be the last time seeing the bird. I believe over 200 people saw the bird. People from Buffalo to the Adirondacks were among them. I also met people from New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Upon reflection, this was likely the most exciting and satisfying birding experience I've had. Yet, it wasn't only due to the bird. It was because of the many birders I met whom I'd only known previously through seeing their eBird reports.

Spending time with many other birders. Finding out where they were from. In some cases, helping them find the bird and seeing their excitement. Those were the best moments associated with the discovery.

I received zero complaints from residents about birders trespassing or creating disturbances. Everyone behaved well and I'd like to extend my thanks to those who saw the bird in a respectful manner. Additionally, this experience showed the town of Downsville what birders can do for their local economy as many used the hotels, restaurants and gas stations during their visit.

Almost everyone I spoke to in the community heard about the bird. The local paper even did a story about it. Most of all, I realized how lucky I am to be part of the New York State birding community. Hopefully one day I can share another rarity.

As I conclude this, the CBC is a little over a month away. I better start scouting.



PATCH BIRDING—HOME PATCH, PITTSFORD MENDON CENTER ROAD

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Coming four years now, the hubby and I (he conceived during a WWII leave, me a somewhat younger baby boomer) upsized (gasp!) to a sprawling ranch on three acres, the better to host a growing family now containing three grandkids. The house is in southeastern Monroe County, Town of Mendon, in an outer suburb of Rochester. More to the point, it sits across the street from an under-birded piece of the largest county park in the system, Mendon Ponds, henceforth MPP. I promptly created an eBird “patch” that includes my yard and the county land. There are shrubby fields, three small cattail marshes, an old pine plantation, deciduous woods. The patch list is up to 112 species. Below are some of the highlights of these last four years.

There is an overwintering flock of Turkey Vultures in this part of the county, perhaps two dozen or so. This past winter, we were privileged to have some of them roost in the yard’s Norway Spruce. On cold winter mornings, walking out to fetch the morning papers, I’d be startled by an explosion of wing beats as they flushed and struggled to gain altitude in the cold, still air. On sunny afternoons, they would drop into these spruce to catch the last rays of warmth; we would watch amazed as the spruce swallowed up their hulking bodies as they settled in.

Woodcock is another favorite first-thing-in-the-morning bird. On warm mornings in early spring, often with snowy remnants lingering, I walk across the road and down into the field a bit to minimize traffic sounds and am greeted with woodcock peents. A bit later in the spring, I am serenaded by Eastern Phoebes and House Wrens, sometimes even the first ones in the county for the year.

Regulars include Screech and Great Horned Owls (and once a jealousy-provoking Barred!), all the expected woodpeckers except Red-headed (a Pileated Woodpecker swinging on a 5 x 5 wire suet feeder is a sight to behold), the three regular falcons, seven flycatcher species, year-round Red-breasted Nuthatches, Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds breeding in provided boxes, all three mimics, 12 species of sparrows, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. Accipiters visiting the feeders in winter provide drama.

The warbler list is up to 14 species. Blue-winged Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warblers and Chestnut-sided Warblers breed in the shrubby field across the street, with American Redstarts and Hooded Warblers favoring the deciduous woods. In late winter/early spring there have been Pine Warbler visits to the suet. Not actually on my home patch but within the boundaries of MPP, my regular hilly-walk-for-exercise route includes four Hooded Warbler territories. A note of caution as we all get ready for the Breeding Bird Atlas: On any given day during breeding season the number of HOWAs that I actually hear ranges from 0 to 4 on the same exact route at roughly the same time of day.

A report from my home patch would not be complete without mentioning Chukar. In 2018 several escaped from the nearby private hunting preserve where they are raised and one ended up in my yard. It was a daily presence for several weeks, rooting about under the bird feeders. Every garden should have a Chukar. Or not. If the holes dug in mine are any indication, their means of escape is likely by digging. I've already seen some escapees just recently, despite their rearing pens having been extensively renovated earlier this year. OK, I know Chukar is a NYSOA unmentionable, but one can hold out hope that one day a Chukar would come by being followed by baby Chukars, and then who would be laughing?

One-time only sightings of Bald Eagle, Northern Shrike, Swainson's Thrush and Fox Sparrow keep me glued to the windows overlooking the bird feeders far longer than I'd care to admit. But the best thing is that the hubby, finally retired, is sometimes actually looking at birds and occasionally actually uses binoculars to do so. Hope springs eternal....

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EDITOR'S NOTE

On behalf of all contributors, sub-Regional compilers, Regional Editors and others who have contributed or vetted data for this publication, as well as all the readers and researchers who study and enjoy the Regional Reports, we extend a long-overdue note of gratitude to Bob Spahn for his immense contributions to Region 2 and to New York State as a whole, in his roles as Regional Editor, Spring Arrival Dates compiler, and Regional Reports Editor. Similarly, we wish to express our gratitude to the folks at Cornell who facilitate eBird data-mining, and to Bill Ostrander and David Wheeler for formatting and sharing seasonal databases for Regional use. The Regional reports, arrivals charts, and other kinds of data preserved in *The Kingbird* have benefited greatly from their work.

S. S. Mitra, Editor

Patricia J. Lindsay, Regional Reports Editor



WINTER WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 2019— CORRECTED

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[Editor's Note—Due to slight variations in the template files used in compiling the January 2019 Waterfowl Count, some of the species totals for Region 10 were incorrect as published in the original version of this report (*The Kingbird* 69: 119–123). These errors affected the summary as well, so the entire corrected report is republished here.]

About 387 volunteers went into the field 12–27 January 2019 and conducted the New York State Ornithological Association's January Waterfowl Count (JWC). The volunteers logged 1025.5 party-hours and counted 394,243 waterfowl. Swift (2007) described the methodology of the count.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The only significant snow in the state leading up to and during the waterfowl count period was in the western part of the state. Buffalo recorded a 13-inch snow cover on January 20, the count's target date, and 15-inch snow cover on January 26. The snow in Buffalo was accompanied by sub-zero weather on January 20, as well. The target date's weather did lead to some changed plans for participants, but the count's overall coverage of the state was good.

RESULTS

In this summary, I will compare the 2019 numbers with the average annual numbers from the decade 2001–2010. The total number of waterfowl counted this year, 394,243, was 10,537 (3%) more than the average for the 2001–2010 decade. The difference was primarily due to an overall larger count of geese, primarily Canada Geese, which was 43,433 (25%) more than the decade average. This larger count of geese more than offset the lower count of ducks and miscellaneous other waterfowl than the decade average. The 2019 count of swans was 247 (10%) more than the decade average, a higher count of Tundra Swans overcoming a lower count of Mute Swans.

Lingering Wood Ducks and Northern Shovelers accounted for the only counts of dabbling ducks that were higher than the 2001–2010 average. Among diving ducks, the counts of Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Greater Scaup (unless all the unidentified scaup from 2001–2010 were this species and none of the

unidentified scaup in this count were), Common Eider, Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Hooded Merganser were all higher than the decade average. All the non-Anseriformes waterfowl species counts were lower in the 2019 count than the average for the 2001-2010 decade.

LONG-TERM TRENDS

We have been watching for many years the long-term trend of increasing numbers of Tundra Swans wintering in New York State, the number peaking at 4,065 in 2016. That number dropped to 1,443 in 2017 and to 655 in 2018. The number rebounded somewhat in the 2019 count to 1,317. We have also been watching Canvasbacks. While their numbers vary widely from year to year, their two highest counts, 24,584 and 25,718, both occurred in the 2001-2010 decade. Their two lowest counts, 3,771 and 4,514, occurred in the current decade.

By comparing the averages for the periods 1973-2000, 2001-2010, and 2013-2019, possible long-term trends in New York State's winter waterfowl populations can be identified. Possible long-term increases can thus be seen for Snow Goose, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser. Long-term decreases may be happening to American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, scaup, White-winged Scoter, and Common Merganser.

FUTURE COUNTS

You can help with the 2020 count by contacting your Regional compiler. Compiler contact information and historical data are available online at:

<http://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

For planning purposes, the January Waterfowl Count is conducted in a period that begins the Saturday before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (the third Monday in January). The next two count periods will be:

2020 – January 18-26 (target date Sunday, January 19)
2021 – January 16-24 (target date Sunday, January 17)

Table 1. Regional totals for the 2019 January Waterfowl Count.
Note: these data have been corrected and replace those published in *The Kingbird* 69: 120-121.

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Goose, Gr. White-fr.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7
Snow	0	49	12,058	0	0	0	0	1	9	602	12,719
Ross's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada	5,286	15,741	42,879	5,118	4,873	1,191	0	23,840	31,011	55,920	185,859
Cackling	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	8	8	21
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	550	17,420	17,970
Swan, Mute	9	176	25	0	18	103	0	17	317	803	1,468
Trumpeter	0	16	20	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	42
Tundra	196	0	1,060	0	33	28	0	0	0	0	1,317
not to species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Duck	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	28	38	70
Gadwall	12	1	62	3	16	0	0	0	72	1,160	1,326
Wigeon, Eurasian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
American	5	0	41	1	0	0	0	0	51	228	326
Am. Black Duck	64	168	661	277	63	78	42	96	611	5,893	7,953
Mallard	2,042	2,424	4,946	1,393	1,600	522	1,404	1,611	5,478	8,430	29,850
Mallard X Black	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	72	79
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	530	538
Northern Pintail	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	4	108	119
Green-winged Teal	1	4	1	1	0	2	0	0	4	149	162
Canvasback	4,255	14	964	3	3	0	0	3	90	174	5,506
Redhead	1,143	2,649	15,738	345	156	7	0	1	9	45	20,093
Ring-necked Duck	9	84	301	5	19	0	0	1	417	993	1,829
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scaup, Greater	16,817	397	403	31	132	0	0	0	1,128	19,001	37,909

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Lesser not to species	3 130	17 10	104 243	3 0	20 50	2 0	0 100	0 0	0 0	35 1	1,185 1,226
Eider, King Common	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 1	1,369 1,760
Harlequin Duck Scooter, Surf	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 1	5,607 5,607
White-winged Black not to species	99 0 0	34 0 0	20 0 0	1 1 0	42 1 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	1 0 0	1,446 3,690 4,369
Long-tailed Duck Bufflehead	1,182 925	2,565 24	46 201	13 4	475 33	539 16	0 22	0 0	0 0	207 830	3,291 4,911
Goldeneye, Co. Barrow's	2,234 1	1,098 1	1,982 0	139 0	670 0	1,504 0	359 0	467 0	538 0	989 0	9,980 9,980
Merganser, Hooded Common	57 1,058	9 410	98 3,323	133 364	47 1,560	1 762	1 241	1 431	5 1,547	0 89	1,334 1,846
Red-breasted Ruddy Duck	702 0	3,523 0	486 0	2 0	163 0	65 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	18 7	9,827 104
Loon, Red-throated Common	0 0	0 3	0 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 2	0 0	0 43	0 43	6,876 308
Grebe, Pied-billed Horned Red-necked	3 0	1 3	6 1	0 3	3 1	0 0	0 2	0 0	0 0	5 16	35 217
Eared Cormorant, D.-cr.	0 16	0 17	0 1	0 0	0 26	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 2	0 102
Great American Coot	0 0	0 29	0 240	0 46	0 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	2 47	96 49
Other/Unidentified	1,297	3	901	0	0	41	0	0	0	21	170
TOTALS	37,550	29,481	86,822	7,890	10,012	4,862	2,177	26,528	43,482	145,439	394,243

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2019 January Waterfowl Count. The many dedicated field observers volunteered many hours in the field. Regional and local compilers and coordinators deserve special thanks for making sure that the state had good coverage and for compiling the data in a timely manner. The Regional compilers, this year, were:

Region	Compiler	Region	Compiler
1	Jim Landau	6	Jeff Bolsinger
2	Robert Spahn	7	Gary Lee
3	Thomas Bell	8	Bryan Swift
4	Gail Kirch	9	Bill Ostrander
5	Bill Purcell	10	Clifford Hagen

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SPRING 2019

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Winter's icy grip continued into March across most of the state, barely moderating as spring progressed. Early spring was drier than normal and most Regions saw increased precipitation levels by late April and May. Many Regional editors felt that the prolonged cool weather kept early migrants away or in low numbers, but locally, mini warming spells brought bursts of migratory activity.

Upstate, returning waterfowl included a decent showing of geese, common and rare. Greater White-fronted Geese put up good numbers in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 6, where nine were reported at Fort Drum on 14 March. Ross's Geese were reported from seven Regions, and Cackling Geese were reported from nine, with up to 87 individuals reported in Region 2. Pink-footed Goose appeared for the third consecutive year in Region 7, the only report for the state this spring. Snow Geese made strong appearances in Regions 2 and 6. In Region 5, over 75,000 passed Derby Hill on 21 March, following up on 66,000+ the previous day.

A flock of eight Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks appeared in Steuben County, Region 3, on 19 May, followed by a flock in Region 10 that eventually numbered as many as 12 and lingered beyond the end of the period. Eurasian Wigeons were reported from all but two Regions. In Region 9, an early April weather event resulted in a significant grounding of waterfowl and grebes. At Bashakill and Orange Lake, up to 37 Horned and seven Red-necked Grebes and 27 Long-tailed Ducks were tallied along with good numbers of other, less surprising migrants. Long-tails also made waves in Region 4, with multiple reports and a high count of 36.

A King Rail in Region 9 was heard calling at a location where it has appeared in the past. Sandhill Cranes were reported from every Region. Over 100 were tallied at the Braddock Bay hawk watch.

Unusual shorebird species were well represented, with American Golden-Plover in at least three Regions, a surprisingly cooperative Wilson's Plover in Region 10, Black-necked Stilt in three Regions, and Ruffs in Regions 2, 3 and 9. In addition, a Long-billed Dowitcher was noteworthy in Region 5. Also in Region 5, the extremely vulnerable Piping Plover nested again, a hopeful sign for this tiny remnant inland population. A single bird was reported in Region 2. Otherwise, the more regular shorebird species were generally found in decent numbers, with Regions 1 and 2 reporting Ruddy Turnstone counts in the 60s, for example, and good numbers of Dunlin and Semipalmated Sandpipers away from the coast.

Gull numbers were generally mixed, some Regions seeing low to average counts, with a few scattered Little Gulls, a Laughing Gull in Region 5 and an unidentified Franklin's/Laughing in Region 2 being among the highlights. A Least Tern was photographed at Seneca Lake in Region 3, and another at Braddock Bay provided a first spring record for Region 2. Down in Region 10,

Nickerson Beach in Nassau has established itself as a reliable location for Arctic Tern.

Surely one of the most surprising records for the spring season came from Hamlin Beach in late April, when a Magnificent Frigatebird was photographed. This was the first record for Region 2 for this wanderer from the tropics. Is the American White Pelican moving out of the “unexpected” category for New York? It’s now considered regular in Region 1, but was also reported from Regions 2, 5 and 9. Brown Pelicans in Regions 1 and 5, however, are still considered to be another level of rarity. A Pacific Loon was identified from photographs, and later refound, at Saratoga Lake in Region 8, while two were found in Region 10.

American and Least Bitterns received some favorable mentions, both for some good numbers and a few early arrival records. Glossy Ibis was widely reported away from coastal areas, but otherwise, long-legged waders apparently were not well represented, with a few scattered Snowy and Great Egrets mentioned.

Black Vultures continue their increase throughout the state. Both Braddock Bay in Region 2 and Derby Hill in Region 5 reported excellent numbers of Broad-winged Hawks and Bald Eagles, with Derby Hill also mentioning good numbers of Osprey and Golden Eagle but low numbers for Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawk. Rarities included Swainson’s Hawks in Regions 1 and 2, and Mississippi Kites in Regions 2, 4 and 10. Strong numbers were noted for our three normally occurring falcons, and once again Peregrines in Region 5 showed a taste for cuckoos, with 11 brought to one nest through the month of May.

Few Snowy Owls lingered into the spring season, but good numbers of Short-eared and Saw-whet Owls were found, again in Region 2. A Barn Owl recorded in Region 1 was locally rare, but the best bird of this group was undoubtedly the Burrowing Owl found at a Queens (Region 10) construction site and watched by a lucky few in the gloaming. Apparently this bird represented the seventh state record.

Passerine migration was generally given high marks by Regional editors, with a number of interesting early reports, some noteworthy fallouts and more than a few outstanding rarities. A sampling of comments from around the state: “Warblers put on a big show in May as large numbers dazzled birders during the second week of May...” (Region 1); passernes provided “so many interesting observations that only a sampling can be provided here.” (Region 2); “record early arrival dates were tied or set for five species” (Region 6); and “southern passernes such as Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, and Yellow-throated and Prothonotary Warblers were widely encountered across the Region this season” (Region 10).

A quick mention of some interesting species which were not part of the wave of southern arrivals—a Townsend’s Solitaire in Region 8 lingered into early April, Boreal Chickadees were found in Regions 5 and 6, and a Hoary Redpoll lingered into early March in Region 2. By far the standout in this category was the Golden-crowned Sparrow, first identified in December of 2018. My apologies

for overlooking this bird in the winter report, but, determined not to be ignored, the sparrow lingered into spring, demanding its place on these pages!

Summer Tanagers were reported from six Regions, including four from Region 1, with Western Tanager reported from Regions 9 and 10. Among the many other noteworthy records, Prothonotary Warblers were reported from six Regions, a Swainson's Warbler was a one-day wonder at Central Park and 35 Orange-crowned Warblers were reported from Region 2. With its saturation coverage, it's now very difficult for Central Park to add new species to the park list, but in April, White-winged Dove made it onto the cumulative list. A Townsend's Warbler entertained lucky birders at Fairhaven in Region 5, and two days later another turned up at Bashakill in Region 9. Continuing with the "rare birds in multiple Regions" theme, Yellow-headed Blackbirds turned up in Regions 7 and 9, Painted Buntings in Regions 5 and 6, the latter a first Regional record, and Yellow-breasted Chat in Regions 2 and 6. No doubt the most surprising passerine migrant of the season was Sage Thrasher. What isn't so clear is whether the thrasher that spent several days in the gardens at Jamaica Bay (Region 10) was as surprising as the one that turned up two weeks later on Fire Island (also Region 10). These represented the fifth and sixth state records, after an absence of 46 years. Six Regions mentioned Clay-colored Sparrow, including "a whopping ten locations" in Region 1.

After a mixed bag of winter finch sightings last winter, a few interesting reports made it into these pages. Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks, which provided most of the "finch" entertainment last winter, lingered in a number of locations, even persisting into May in Region 6. Evening Grosbeak numbers apparently improved in many areas as spring progressed. See the Region 5 report for Gerry Smith's comments regarding historical timing of this species' movements. In Region 8, a late winter incursion of Pine Grosbeaks was noteworthy. Red Crossbills were not a significant part of the winter finch incursion, so it was surprising when a small flock turned up on eastern Long Island. At least one pair built a nest.

The spring of 2019 produced a number of remarkable rarities. In any normal spring season, easy contenders for Bird of the Season would include the Region 4 Golden-crowned Sparrow (which could easily have been BOTS for the Winter Report), Magnificent Frigatebird in Region 2, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks from two Regions, upstate Brown Pelicans, and multiple Townsend's Warblers. This year, though, what could top a seventh state record Burrowing Owl or fifth and sixth state records of Sage Thrasher? In this remarkable spring season, there is an answer to this question. On 5 May, Pat Lindsay visited the rain puddles where last year she found a mega rare Wood Sandpiper. Not one to rest on her laurels, Pat managed to pull a **Common Greenshank** out of a small flock of yellowlegs! This first NYS record, one of very few for North America outside of Alaska, is the clear shoo-in for BOTS for spring 2019. I'm pretty sure that the puddles at Timber Point County Park will be well attended next spring!

Corrigenda: In Highlights of the Season—Winter (*The Kingbird* 69: 131) a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was incorrectly attributed to Region 4; it was actually the “bird of the season” for Region 3.



Common Greenshank, Timber Point Golf Course, *Suffolk*, 5 May 2019, © Tim Dunn.

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SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR 2019

Region	Species Reported ¹	Seasonality ² vs. 1987-15	Advance ³ (Days)	Record Early Spp.
1	91	-2.90	-1.80	2
2	93	-3.22	-2.86	2
3	92	-2.53	-1.94	2
4	-	-	-	-
5	88	-0.64	3.33	2
6	91	-4.13	5.23	5
7	88	-2.98	8.17	3
8	91	-5.88	-1.32	3
9	90	-5.15	-4.47	8
10	81	-2.54	-4.34	2

¹Maximum number of species = 93.

²Average arrival in a Region compared to that Region’s 33-year average.

³Average arrival in a Region compared to the average of all Regions.

Given difficulties in estimating arrivals of some species in some Regions, estimates of Seasonality and Advance should be interpreted with caution.

	Spring Arrival Dates						2019 Waterbirds					
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	33-Yr. Ave
Wood Duck	26 Feb	9 Mar	2 Mar		14 Mar	7 Mar	5 Mar	18 Feb		3 Mar	10 Mar	
Blue-winged Teal	18 Mar	19 Mar	15 Mar		16 Mar	26 Mar	19 Mar	12 Mar	14 Mar	17 Mar	27 Mar	
Northern Pintail	9 Feb	10 Feb	2 Mar		30 Mar	2 Mar	9 Feb			25 Feb	5 Mar	
Green-winged Teal	19 Feb	1 Mar	1 Mar		14 Mar	17 Mar	13 Mar		8 Mar	6 Mar	13 Mar	
Virginia Rail	8 Apr	6 Apr	3 Apr		13 Apr	12 Apr	8 May	4 Apr	25 Mar	8 Apr	9 Apr	
Sora	18 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr		17 Apr	30 Apr	25 May	18 Apr	16 Apr	14 Apr	22 Apr	
Common Gallinule	22 Apr	30 Mar	13 Apr		15 Apr	19 Apr	22 May	23 Apr	19 Apr		20 Apr	
Black-bellied Plover	15 May	4 May	1 May		17 May	27 May	4 May	10 May		11 May	13 May	
Semipalmated Plover	11 May	27 Apr	23 May		27 Apr	11 May	22 May	9 May	7 May	28 Apr	8 May	
Killdeer	10 Feb	10 Mar	16 Feb		23 Mar	14 Mar	15 Mar	4 Mar	15 Feb	15 Feb	1 Mar	
Sanderling	28 May	8 Apr	12 May		15 May				17 May		18 May	
Least Sandpiper	3 May	1 May	5 Apr		5 May	11 May	27 May	13 Apr	20 Apr	15 Apr	27 Apr	
Pectoral Sandpiper	28 Mar	29 Mar	4 May		13 Apr		9 May	7 Apr	17 Apr	15 Apr	18 Apr	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	23 May	13 May	13 May		16 May	26 May	27 May	12 May	8 May	2 May	15 May	
American Woodcock	9 Mar	14 Mar	14 Mar			17 Mar	27 Mar	12 Mar	26 Feb		13 Mar	
Wilson's Snipe	14 Mar	24 Mar	14 Mar		12 Apr	5 Apr	9 Apr	24 Mar	4 Mar		24 Mar	
Spotted Sandpiper	19 Apr	17 Apr	13 Apr		20 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr	2 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr	22 Apr	
Solitary Sandpiper	6 Apr	19 Apr	18 Apr		31 Mar	8 May	4 May	4 Apr	9 Apr	20 Apr	16 Apr	
Lesser Yellowlegs	12 Apr	3 Apr	31 Mar		12 Apr	6 Apr	19 Apr	17 Apr	13 Apr	12 Apr	10 Apr	
Greater Yellowlegs	24 Mar	22 Mar	24 Mar		2 Apr	1 Apr	20 Apr	10 Apr	31 Mar		1 Apr	
Caspian Tern	11 Apr	7 Apr	7 Apr		7 Apr	12 Apr	7 Apr	6 Apr	26 Apr	10 Apr	15 Apr	
Black Tern	26 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr		17 Apr	5 May	12 May	4 May	23 May	3 May	7 May	
Common Tern	8 Apr	12 Apr	31 Mar		9 Apr	25 Apr	23 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr	
American Bittern	14 Apr	30 Mar	16 Apr		6 Apr	9 Apr	31 Mar	24 Mar	3 Apr	31 Mar	4 Apr	
Green Heron	13 Apr	19 Apr	13 Apr		22 Apr	3 Apr	7 May	15 Apr	12 Apr	4 Apr	15 Apr	
Osprey	27 Mar	24 Mar	14 May		27 Mar	31 Mar	21 Mar	24 Mar	18 Mar	14 Mar	29 Mar	
Marsh Wren	18 Apr	16 Apr	14 Apr		21 Apr	2 May	3 May	21 Apr	15 Apr	15 Apr	20 Apr	

Dates in **bold** type are record-early arrivals for the Region.

Species	Spring Arrival Dates 2019 Landbirds										33-Yr. Ave
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 May	10 May	6 May	8 May	19 May	21 May	9 May	4 May	27 Apr	8 May	11 May
Common Nighthawk	7 May	7 May	15 May	18 May	12 May	11 May	18 May	6 May	19 Apr	9 May	11 May
Chimney Swift	21 Apr	18 Apr	13 Apr	18 Apr	3 May	7 May	19 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr	20 Apr	24 Apr
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	28 Apr	1 May	1 May	2 May	4 May	4 May	19 Apr	19 Apr	18 Apr	27 Apr	1 May
Yellow-shelled Sapsucker	29 Mar	29 Mar	17 Mar	19 Mar	1 Apr	28 Mar	16 Mar	26 Apr	25 Mar	28 Mar	2 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	9 May	15 May	20 May	18 May	4 May	20 May	17 May	7 May	6 May	12 May	17 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	8 May	8 May	2 May	10 May	8 May	11 May	20 May	2 May	2 May	6 May	9 May
Alder Flycatcher	17 May	13 May	13 May	15 May	11 May	11 May	4 May	11 May	24 May	13 May	16 May
Willow Flycatcher	8 May	9 May	11 May	6 May	11 May	14 May	5 May	8 May	11 May	9 May	14 May
Least Flycatcher	25 Apr	2 May	19 Apr	2 May	2 May	5 May	4 May	29 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	1 May
Eastern Phoebe	15 Mar	15 Mar	18 Mar	15 Mar	29 Mar	21 Mar	19 Mar	23 Feb	2 Mar	14 Mar	21 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	1 May	2 May	30 Apr	2 May	2 May	7 May	30 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr
Eastern Kingbird	27 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	4 May	28 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	2 May	2 May	2 May	21 Apr	2 May	18 May	29 Apr	23 Apr	14 Apr	29 Apr	3 May
Blue-headed Vireo	14 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	13 Apr	10 Apr	15 Apr	18 Apr
Warbling Vireo	24 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	1 May	3 May	5 May	23 Apr	25 Apr	19 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr
Red-eyed Vireo	2 May	2 May	2 May	25 Apr	4 May	8 May	2 May	27 Apr	21 Apr	30 Apr	3 May
Purple Martin	30 Mar	9 Apr	7 Apr	9 Apr	12 Apr	12 Apr	13 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr	15 Apr	15 Apr
Tree Swallow	13 Mar	14 Mar	14 Mar	14 Mar	24 Mar	13 Mar	15 Mar	13 Mar	12 Mar	14 Mar	19 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	4 Apr	3 Apr	7 Apr	9 Apr	7 Apr	20 Apr	6 Apr	27 Mar	28 Mar	5 Apr	12 Apr
Bank Swallow	14 Apr	12 Apr	15 Apr	19 Apr	30 Apr	22 May	18 Apr	21 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr
Cliff Swallow	16 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	15 Apr	14 Apr	12 May	30 Apr	13 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr	25 Apr
Barn Swallow	30 Mar	14 Mar	3 Apr	6 Apr	12 Apr	5 Apr	7 Apr	28 Mar	27 Mar	31 Mar	8 Apr
House Wren	14 Apr	18 Apr	12 Apr	19 Apr	22 Apr	21 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	3 Apr	16 Apr	20 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr	28 Apr	20 Apr	13 Apr	6 Apr	31 Mar	13 Apr	19 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	29 Mar	3 Apr	23 Mar	6 Apr	13 Apr	10 Apr	3 Apr	1 Apr	5 Apr	3 Apr	6 Apr
Eastern Bluebird	13 Mar	13 Mar			24 Mar	11 Mar	1 Mar		12 Mar	12 Mar	9 Mar
Veery	1 May	30 Apr	1 May	3 May	3 May	6 May	1 May	25 Apr	16 Apr	29 Apr	1 May
Swainson's Thrush	5 May	4 May	3 May	4 May	16 May	14 May	4 May	2 May	4 May	7 May	
Hermit Thrush	4 Apr	2 Apr	1 Apr	4 Apr	8 Apr	14 Apr	23 Mar	2 Apr	25 Mar	2 Apr	7 Apr
Wood Thrush	25 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	2 May	5 May	30 Apr	26 Apr	14 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr
Gray Catbird	5 Apr	10 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	4 May	14 Apr	29 Mar	16 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr
Brown Thrasher	7 Apr	10 Apr	2 Apr	31 Mar	17 Apr	30 Mar	10 Apr	7 Apr	28 Mar	5 Apr	13 Apr

Dates in bold type are record-early arrivals for the Region.

Species	Spring Arrival Dates										2019		Landbirds (cont'd)	
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	33-Yr. Ave		
Eastern Towhee	21 Mar	24 Mar	1 May	20 Apr	19 Apr	30 Mar	2 Apr	30 Mar	2 Apr	30 Mar	2 Apr	7 Apr		
Chipping Sparrow	18 Mar	30 Mar	13 Mar	26 Apr	8 Apr	12 Mar	30 Mar	28 Mar	28 Mar	28 Mar	28 Mar	3 Apr		
Vesper Sparrow	6 Apr	6 Apr	21 Mar	31 Mar	8 Apr	9 Apr	13 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr	5 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr		
Savannah Sparrow	31 Mar	7 Apr	7 Mar	6 Apr	9 Apr	12 Apr	7 Apr	8 Apr	8 Apr	3 Apr	6 Apr	6 Apr		
Lincoln's Sparrow	1 May	30 Apr	3 May	1 May	4 May	23 Apr	4 May	2 May	19 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	3 May		
White-crowned Sparrow		16 Apr	16 Apr	3 May	3 May	14 Apr	10 Apr	14 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr		
Bobolink	1 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	10 May	5 May	29 Apr	1 May	1 May	2 May	2 May	2 May	1 May		
Baltimore Oriole	27 Apr	1 May	23 Apr	1 May	3 May	30 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr		
Ovenbird	1 May	23 Apr	21 Apr	1 May	3 May	5 May	26 Apr	21 Apr	15 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr		
Northern Waterthrush	19 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	3 May	21 Apr	21 Apr	14 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr		
Black-and-White Warbler	27 Apr	21 Apr	18 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	20 Apr	31 Mar	18 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	23 Apr		
Tennessee Warbler	2 May	2 May	5 May	2 May	7 May	8 May	7 May	27 Apr	29 Apr	3 May	3 May	7 May		
Nashville Warbler	23 Apr	26 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	3 May	5 May	2 May	27 Apr	17 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr		
Mourning Warbler	7 May	7 May	7 May	15 May	17 May	20 May	13 May	13 May	15 May	6 May	11 May	13 May		
Common Yellowthroat	1 May	12 Apr	22 Apr	28 Apr	5 May	8 May	24 Apr	12 Apr	15 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr		
American Redstart		30 Apr	29 Apr	5 May	5 May	29 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr		
Cape May Warbler	1 May	1 May	3 May	2 May	5 May	2 May	2 May	4 May	4 May	2 May	2 May	6 May		
Northern Parula	29 Apr	14 Apr	3 May	2 May	6 May	3 May	9 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr		
Magnolia Warbler	1 May	2 May	2 May	3 May	7 May	3 May	3 May	2 May	2 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	3 May		
Bay-breasted Warbler	4 May	7 May	4 May	5 May	17 May	20 May	7 May	3 May	3 May	7 May	9 May	9 May		
Blackburnian Warbler	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	3 May	4 May	1 May	28 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr	30 Apr	2 May		
Yellow Warbler	25 Apr	23 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	29 Apr	7 May	21 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	30 Apr	2 May	3 May	2 May	6 May	8 May	3 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	2 May		
Blackpoll Warbler	15 May	10 May	12 May	5 May	5 May	15 May	4 May	4 May	4 May	27 Apr	7 May	11 May		
Black-dri. Blue Warbler	1 May	1 May	2 May	28 Apr	3 May	25 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr		
Palm Warbler	17 Apr	13 Apr	10 Apr	16 Apr	2 May	16 Apr	1 Apr	30 Mar	29 Mar	10 Apr	10 Apr	15 Apr		
Pine Warbler	27 Mar	2 Apr	25 Mar	8 Apr	16 Apr	15 Apr	1 Apr	15 Mar	13 Mar	30 Mar	30 Mar	7 Apr		
Black-dri. Green Warbler	22 Apr	23 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr	2 May	2 May	21 Apr	4 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	25 Apr		
Canada Warbler	9 May	9 May	2 May	6 May	6 May	16 May	7 May	3 May	29 Apr	6 May	6 May	9 May		
Wilson's Warbler	9 May	7 May	3 May	5 May	7 May	19 May	4 May	17 Apr	2 May	4 May	4 May	10 May		
Scarlet Tanager	29 Apr	1 May	2 May	2 May	5 May	7 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	3 May		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	19 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	2 May	23 Apr	20 Apr	25 Apr	18 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr	27 Apr		
Indigo Bunting	1 May	3 May	3 May	3 May	7 May	7 May	3 May	16 Apr	16 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	3 May		
Overall Average	16 Apr	15 Apr	16 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr	17 Apr	14 Apr	14 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	21 Apr		

Dates in bold type are record-early arrivals for the Region.

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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Winter's cold continued for the start of March. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 31.5°F, 2.5° below normal, with 2.73" of precipitation, 0.14" below average. There was 10.5" of snowfall, 2.4" below average. Warm weather on the 13th–15th prompted an increase in migration. April's weather oscillated between cooler periods and warm-ups. The mean temperature was 44.8°, 1.1° below average. Precipitation was 3.07", 0.06" above average, with 0.5" of snowfall, 2.2" below normal. Lake Erie was frozen through March and ice remained in the eastern basin near Buffalo until late April. May brought steady weather patterns and was overall cooler than usual. The average temperature was 55.4°, 1.5° below normal. Rainfall occurred on more than half the days at 3.53", 0.07" above normal.

There were two Ross's Goose reports in March with one at Olean and another, or possibly the same bird, at Dayton Gravel Ponds. Greater White-fronted Geese continued their good showing from February with reports from seven locations in March. A Trumpeter Swan was found by Sue Barth at Winter's Pond in North Collins on 28 March, and then up to five Trumpeter Swans were seen around Iroquois NWR and Tonawanda WMA in April and May. Tundra Swans made a heavy migration push 13–19 March. Gale VerHague photographed a putative **Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal** hybrid at a pond in Pomfret on 18 March. A Eurasian Wigeon continued at Celoron until 14 March, while another was at Tonawanda WMA in March. Late sightings of a drake Eurasian Wigeon were made at Iroquois NWR on 18 and 27 May. Two to three Harlequin Ducks continued off Niagara Falls SP into early May.

A second Regional record of **Black-necked Stilt** was the highlight of spring shorebird migration. Robert Deleon found one at Tonawanda WMA on 19 May and two were found at the same location the next day by Bill Wolanske. Gale VerHague found two American Avocets at Dunkirk Harbor on 28 April. There were two Whimbrel reports in late May. Memorial Day weekend brought many shorebirds to the breakwalls of Buffalo Harbor including a good count of 67 Ruddy Turnstones and the only Sanderling report of the spring. Four Willets at Buffalo Harbor on 13 May were a good find. The only reports for Upland Sandpiper were at the regular breeding location adjacent to Tillman Road WMA.

There were several reports of Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls beyond March, and no rare gull sightings for the season. Caspian Terns again bred in Buffalo Harbor. Up to 35 Black Terns were found at Iroquois NWR, the only breeding location in the Region. Four Black Terns going to roost at Grass Island in Buckhorn Island SP on 10 May was an interesting report from Alec

Humann. While these were probably migrating birds roosting for the night, it is easy to wonder if Black Terns might be able to breed at Grass Island if the location wasn't surrounded by recreational boaters all summer. There was one report of Forster's Tern, with three found in Olean on 28 April.

American White Pelican was sighted at Times Beach Nature Preserve 7 April, at Iroquois NWR on 17 April and 26 May, and in Buffalo Harbor on 8 and 11 May. This makes nine of the last ten spring seasons it has been recorded. A **Brown Pelican** was sighted in Buffalo Harbor on 19 May by Jen Starr and others; this was the fifth record for the Region. The same bird was photographed four days later in nearby Jordan Harbour, Ontario. Sandhill Cranes were reported from 13 locations, presumably all in migration, in addition to up to 10 at Iroquois NWR and eight at Conewango Swamp WMA. American Bittern was reported from seven locations beyond Iroquois NWR with a good count of eight seen at Tifft Nature Preserve on 5 May. Least Bittern was reported from four locations. No rare herons or egrets were sighted this spring.

The highlight of the spring raptor migration was a **Swainson's Hawk** at the Hamburg Hawkwatch on 8 April as observed by Alec Humann, Sue Barth, and Kevin Rybczynski; this was the first record for the hawkwatch and for Erie County. There were two Golden Eagle sightings at the Hamburg Hawkwatch in April and another was observed over Forest Lawn Cemetery on 3 May. The only Northern Goshawk report came from Swain in May. Black Vultures were sighted in seven locations beyond their regular haunt of Lewiston, which made for their best spring showing ever.

Barn Owl calls were recorded by Bill Evans at an acoustic station in Yates on 12 April, making for a rare Regional record. A few Snowy Owls were reported in March on the breakwalls around Buffalo Harbor and the last report was one in Batavia in mid-April. Long-eared Owl was reported from three locations including a roosting bird at Tifft NP on 13 April that many birders were able to see. Short-eared Owls were found at three locations, and there were four Northern Saw-whet Owl reports.

A White-eyed Vireo in Jamestown on 18 May was a good find. Fish Crows were reported each month from Unity Island along with one other report from Buffalo and one at Four Mile Creek SP in May. Two to three Sedge Wrens were reported from Conewango Swamp WMA in May. There were very few reports and low numbers of American Pipits this spring; only ten eBird reports and a max count of 11 were surprising.

Evening Grosbeaks continued their good showing from the fall and winter seasons. There were just a few Common Redpoll reports, as expected since it was not a flight winter for them. David Crowe discovered Red Crossbills at Hanging Bog WMA with up to 12 seen 12-23 April; this made for a rare spring report. Pine Siskins were around each month with maximum reports in the dozens.

Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from a whopping ten locations; it will be interesting to see how many will be documented breeding in the upcoming

Atlas project. Grasshopper Sparrow was found at a few migration locations, which is an uncommon occurrence.

Warblers put on big show in May as large numbers dazzled birders during the second week of May, especially at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo and Amherst SP. Cape May, Nashville, Northern Parula, and Black-throated Blue were around in unusually large numbers during this period. Shelly Seidmann found a Worm-eating Warbler near her Buffalo home for the only report this spring. There were six Golden-winged Warbler sightings plus two Brewster's and one Lawrence's Warbler report. Prothonotary Warbler and Prairie Warbler were found in migration more often than usual, away from regular breeding locations. Prothonotary Warbler reports came from Tifft NP, Forest Lawn Cemetery, and Buckhorn Island SP.

Summer Tanager reports have increased in recent years and this spring brought an impressive four sightings. David Crowe started things off with one at Gargoyle Park in Olean. Betsy Kegelmyer reported one from her feeder in Hamburg. Kirk Vanstrom found one at Long Point SP on 11 May. Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, and Josh Ketry then found one at Wilson on 19 May.

The 84th BOS April Count was held on 14 April on a rain-filled morning. The species count (145) was slightly below and the 98,038 birds recorded was more than 20% lower than the 10-year averages. These were influenced by one of the lowest participation rates in recent decades. Record high counts were tallied for Green Heron (4), Common Raven (35), House Wren (8), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (7), Brown Thrasher (63), and Chipping Sparrow (668). Record low counts, some likely attributable to the lower participation, included Canada Goose (4,590), Blue-winged Teal (60), Lesser Scaup (120), Killdeer (176), Herring Gull (351), Northern Harrier (15), American Crow (1,166) and House Sparrow (992).

The BOS May Count was held on 19 May. A total of 198 species was tallied and 65,995 birds (both below average) were recorded. High counts over the last 50 years included Red-breasted Merganser (2,764), Great Egret (188), Bald Eagle (54), Osprey (61), Sandhill Crane (14), Pileated Woodpecker (60), Olive-sided Flycatcher (15), and Northern Parula (53). Lowest counts in the last 50 years included only American Crow (796).

CONTRIBUTORS

Rose Antos, Tom Auer, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Jim Berry, Seaghan Coleman, David Crowe, Willie D'Anna, Ian Davies, Robert Deleon, Marcia Dirnberger, Sarah Dzielski, Bill Evans, Joe Fell, Heather Ferrara, Conan Guard, Richard Guthrie, Kathy Hardiman, Paul Hess, Alec Humann, Matt Kaufmann, Betsy Kegelmyer, Tom Kerr, Josh Ketry, Denis Kreze, Lee Langenfeld, Tim Lenz, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, TJ Mudd, Alyssa Nowicki, Betsy Potter, Jeff Reed, Gerry Rising, Marcus Rosten, Vicki Rothman, Kevin Rybczynski, Shelly Seidmann, Debbie Sharon, Tom Simmons, Jen Starr

(JeS), Rick Stevens (RSt), R. Stineman (RSti), Joel Strong (JoS), Kirk Vanstrom, Gale VerHague, Jacquie Walters, Bill Wolanske, Chris Wood, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BOSAC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 14 Apr; **BOSMC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 19 May; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FMCSP** – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** - Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **Hamburg HW** – Hamburg Hawk Watch, ERIE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JAS** – Jamestown Audubon Society, CHAU; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, ERIE; **SPWS** – Sinking Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tifft NP** – Tifft Nature Preserve, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 17 DH 1 Mar; 22 BufH 13 Mar; 57, 85 Yates ORLE 14, 24 Mar; max 200 PB 17 Mar; 29 Wilson NIAG 19 Mar.
Ross's Goose: Olean CATT 19 Mar (KH); Dayton Gravel Ponds CATT 23-25 Mar (ID, SD et al); possibly same bird?
Greater White-fronted Goose: 9, 2 Celoron ChauL 3, 14 Mar; Newstead ERIE 10, 12 Mar; max 10 Carlton ORLE 10 Mar; 2 PB 12 Mar; 2 Yates ORLE 14 Mar; 2 Newfane NIAG 18 Mar; N Collins ERIE 23-29 Mar.
Cackling Goose: 10 Wilson NIAG 12, 17 Mar; 4 Newfane NIAG 18 Mar; 10 Lyndonville NIAG 24 Mar; last Hartland NIAG 1 Apr.
Mute Swan: 2 BeSP 8 Mar; DH 1 Apr, 4, 31 May; max 6 Lyndonville NIAG 26 May.
Trumpeter Swan: N Collins ERIE 28 Mar-5 Apr (SB); 1-4 INWR 6 Apr-31 May, was regular at location last year; 5, 5 TWMA 30 Apr, 5 May.
Tundra Swan: 255 BuSP 1 Mar; 370 WoBSP 13 Mar; max 500, 847 Wilson NIAG 16, 19

Mar; 625 Shelby ORLE 19 Mar; 334 INWR 20 Mar; last 5 Wilson NIAG 3 Apr.

Wood Duck: max 50 Pomfret CHAU 19 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 Pomfret CHAU 18 Mar; max 15 Fredonia CHAU 23 Mar; 60 BOSAC; numbers remain down.

CINNAMON x Blue-winged Teal: Pomfret CHAU 18 Mar (GV ph!), first occurrence in Reg.

Northern Shoveler: max 40 INWR 19 Apr.

Gadwall: max 52 OOWMA 10 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: Celoron ChauL 3-14 Mar (RSti), continuing since Feb; TWMA 24 Mar (PY); INWR 18, 27 May (RSt; MM).

American Wigeon: max 276 OOWMA 7 Apr.

American Black Duck: max 35 CSWMA 17 Mar.

Northern Pintail: max 230 TWMA 24 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 47 CSWMA 9 Apr.

Canvasback: 300 Celoron ChauL 2 Mar; max 1050 BuSP 3 Mar; last BWWTP 12 May.

Redhead: max 360 Celoron ChauL 8 Mar; 150 DH 23 Mar; 8, 2 INWR 25, 30 May.

Ring-necked Duck: max 250 TWMA 24 Mar; INWR 27 May.

Greater Scaup: max 510 BufH 24 Mar.

Lesser Scaup: max 75 Celoron ChauL 3 Mar.

Harlequin Duck: 2-3 NFSP thru 5 May, regular location.

Surf Scoter: BufH 9, 26 Mar; 4 Clarence ERIE 22 Apr (RG), unusual location; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 65 FNSP 24 Mar; BufH 16 May; INWR 30 May, unusual location.

Black Scoter: BufH 5, 29 Mar, 4 Apr (KR, SS); only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: max 425 BufH 24 Mar; last 7 Olcott NIAG 24 May.

Bufflehead: max 70 BuSP 10 May.

Common Goldeneye: max 210 BufH 24 Mar; last 3 Porter NIAG 10 May.

Hooded Merganser: max 44 Celoron ChauL 14 Mar.

Common Merganser: max 120 Celoron ChauL 2 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 1067 Wilson NIAG 1 Mar; 450 Barcelona CHAU 3 Apr; 450 BufH 12 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: 67, 108 BWWTP 6 Apr, 3 May; max 350 Mayville ChauL 27 Apr (TL); 33, 15 INWR 29 Apr, 27 May.

Horned Grebe: max 25 Mayville ChauL 27 Apr; BMAC 16 May (TK), unusual location.

Red-necked Grebe: 3 Celoron ChauL 3 Mar (TL); max 75 GHSP 29 Mar; 7 Wilson NIAG 30 Mar; N Harmony CHAU 27, 28 Apr; last 2 GHSP 4 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr AmSP 11 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr FLC 1 May (JF), slightly early.

Common Nighthawk: arr Forestville CHAU 7 May; 9 RWNP 21 May; 13, 12 Lakewood CHAU 22, 27 May; max 33 N Harmony CHAU 25 May; 8 Newfane NIAG 27 May; 29 Buffalo ERIE 29 May.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr Hamburg ERIE 18 Apr; Clarence ERIE 2 May; FLC, GHSP 3 May; Lancaster ERIE 5 May; Porter NIAG 8 May; good showing.

Chimney Swift: arr FLC, AmSP 21 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Andover ALLE 28 Apr.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: arr 2 Pomfret CHAU 8 Apr; 4 TBNP 2 May; max 5 Lockport NIAG 6, 11 May; Swain ALLE 18 May; CSWMA 20, 25 May; AISP 31 May; only reports away from INWR & vicinity.

Sora: arr INWR 18 Apr; CSWMA 21 May; GHSP 26, 27 May (MK, JoS), unusual location.

Common Gallinule: arr Tifft NP 22 Apr; max 15 INWR 10 May; Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 18 May.

American Coot: max 38 INWR 30 Mar.

Sandhill Crane: arr 2, 4 INWR 8, 24 Mar; max 10 INWR 4 Apr; 5, 8, 2 CSWMA 8, 12 Apr, 20-31 May; reported from 13 other locations presumably in migration.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: 1, 2 TWMA 19, 20 May (RD, BW); second Reg record.

American Avocet: 2 DH 28 Apr (GV), rare in spring.

Black-bellied Plover: arr 2, 12 Wilson NIAG 15, 26 May; 4 CSWMA 20 May; 8 Somerset NIAG 28 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 11 Sheridan CHAU, Somerset NIAG 11 May; 31 French Creek CHAU 21 May; max 78 CSWMA 24 May (CW).

Upland Sandpiper: arr 3 TRWMA BOSMC; only report.

Whimbrel: BufH 27 May; DH 28 May; only reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr BeSP 9 May; 6 Wilson NIAG 26 May; max 67, 34 BufH 28, 30 May (SB, JK), high counts for spring.

Sanderling: 5 BufH 28 May (SB), only report.

Dunlin: arr INWR 18 Apr; max 45 CSWMA 20 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr Java WYOM 3 May; max 61 CSWMA 24 May; 50 INWR 26 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr BWWTP 12 May; 2 CSWMA 24 May; 2 Somerset NIAG 31 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Wilson NIAG 28 Mar; max 20 Wilson NIAG 29 Apr.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr, max 80 Sheridan CHAU 23 May; 79 CSWMA 24 May (CW); 60 INWR 26 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 3 Sheridan CHAU 11 May; Buffalo ERIE 16 May; 3 Somerset NIAG 17 May; Brant ERIE 18 May; 2, 3 CSWMA 20, 21 May.

American Woodcock: arr 2 Forestville CHAU 9 Mar; max 11 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 7 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr Somerset NIAG 14 Mar; max 35 CSWMA 9 Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr DH 19 Apr; max 21 BWWTP 3 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Sheridan CHAU 6 Apr; max 14 Brant ERIE 14 May (SB).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 9 CSWMA 12 Apr; max 34 Brant ERIE 4 May.
Willet: 4 BufH 13 May (JK, KR); only report.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 3 CSWMA 24 Mar; max 45 INWR 23 Apr.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 500 Buffalo NR 13 Apr.
Little Gull: max 2 Lewiston NR 20 Mar.
Ring-billed Gull: 3500 Jamestown CHAU 17 Mar (JB), good inland count.
Iceland Gull: last Barcelona Harbor CHAU 27 Apr; only 3 other reports.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2, 1 Celeron ChauL 2, 14 Mar; N Collins ERIE 30 Mar; last DH 25 May (CW); four other reports.
Glaucous Gull: max 2 DH 17 Mar; last WoBSP 29 May (SB); six other reports.
Caspian Tern: arr 2 DH 11 Apr; 37 INWR 6 May (PH), good inland count; max 160 Wilson NIAG 4 May; 116 BufH 29 May, bred at this location again.
Black Tern: arr 9 INWR 26 Apr; Tonawanda NR 29 Apr (MR); 4 BuSP 10 May (AH), at Grass Island to roost; max 35 INWR 25 May.
Common Tern: arr BeSP 8 Apr; max 220 Unity I Buffalo NR 13 May.
Forster's Tern: 3 Olean CATT 28 Apr (JR); only report.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: BuSP 8 Mar; 2 BufH 17 Mar; 17 Wilson NIAG 3 Apr; INWR 22 Apr; max 20 Olcott NIAG 27 Apr; last Wilson NIAG 19 May.
Common Loon: arr 5 NFSP 21 Mar; max 30 Mayville CHAU 27 Apr.
Double-crested Cormorant: 842 BufH 22 Apr; 840 Wilson NIAG 30 Apr; max 1000 NFSP 29 Apr.
American White Pelican: TBNP 7 Apr (SB); 1, 1 INWR 17 Apr, 26 May (MMC, CM); BufH 8, 11 May (DK); has become annual in spring.
BROWN PELICAN (R1): BufH 19 May (JeS; PY); 5th Regional record.
American Bittern: arr Alma ALLE 14 Apr; GHSP 3 May; FNSP 4 May; max 8 Tifft NP 5 May; LBSP, Olcott NIAG 5 May; Newsane NIAG 8 May; more locations than usual away from INWR.
Least Bittern: arr Tifft NP 11 May; Pomfret CHAU 14, 30 May (GV); CSWMA 25 May; INWR 27 May.

Great Blue Heron: 129, 156 Motor I Tonawanda NR 29 Mar, 6 Apr; heronry counts.
Great Egret: arr BeSP 17 Mar; 30 NF 23 Apr; max 126 Motor I Tonawanda NR 2 May; 49 TWMA 21 May.
Green Heron: arr Pomfret CHAU, Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 13 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 4 NF 9 Apr; max 111 NFSP 29 May (JW), at heronry.
Black Vulture: Orchard Park ERIE 14 Mar (SB); Carlton ORLE 20 Mar; 2, 1 Lewiston NIAG 30 Mar, 21 Apr; regular location; Batavia GENE 6 Apr (DB); DH 7 May (GV); N Harmony CHAU 7 May (TL); Tifft NP 11-15 May (SC); Youngstown NIAG 29 May; increasing reports.
Turkey Vulture: max 2091 Hamburg HW 3 Apr.
Osprey: arr Amherst ERIE, Buffalo ERIE 27 Mar; max 20 Hamburg HW 1 May.
Golden Eagle: arr 1, 1 Hamburg HW 1, 17 Apr; FLC 3 May (PY, JF); only reports.
Northern Harrier: max 10 Hamburg HW 8 Apr.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 62 Hamburg HW 5 May.
Northern Goshawk: Swain ALLE 18 May (CW, TA); only report.
Bald Eagle: max 25 Hamburg HW 1 May.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Hamburg HW 13 Mar; max 18 Hamburg HW 8 Apr.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 6 Hamburg HW, Arkwright CHAU 13 Apr; max 753 Hamburg HW.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: Hamburg HW 8 Apr (AH, SB, KR), first ERIE record.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 46 Hamburg HW 27 Mar.
Rough-legged Hawk: 11 reports; last INWR 23 Apr.
Barn Owl: Yates ORLE 12 Apr (BE), nocturnal recording; rarely documented in Region.
Snowy Owl: 2 BufH 6 Mar; last Batavia GENE 17 Apr.
Long-eared Owl: BMAC 1 Mar (TK); Tifft NP 13 Apr (CG, mob); WTSP 14 Apr; only reports.
Short-eared Owl: 2, 1 Shelby ORLE 19 Mar, 14 Apr; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 23 Mar; New Hudson ALLE 8 Apr; only reports.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Yates ORLE 24 Mar (BP); 1, 1 WTSP 28 Mar, 3 Apr (BP, WD); BOSAC; only reports.
Red-headed Woodpecker: reported from 8 locations.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr BufH 29 Mar.
Merlin: Lakewood CHAU 10 May thru (TS),
apparent breeding again.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 4 locations 1 May.
Eastern Kingbird: arr Ischua CATT 27 Apr; max 22 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 16 May.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Porter NIAG 9 May; five other May reports; good showing.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr FLC, Clarence ERIE 8 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr LBSP 16 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr Hunter's Creek CP ERIE 14 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr Ischua CATT, Machias CATT 17 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr INWR 8 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr Darien Lakes SP GENE 25 Apr.
Eastern Phoebe: arr Batavia GENE 15 Mar.
Northern Shrike: last Hamburg HW 7 Apr.
White-eyed Vireo: Jamestown CHAU 18 May (TL), infrequent in spring in recent years.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr FLC 2 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr BOSAC.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr FLC, Olean CATT 7 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr Wilson NIAG 24 Apr.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr FLC 2 May.
Fish Crow: 2, 2, 1 Unity I Buffalo NR 17 Mar, 13 Apr, 13 May (JK, SS); 2, 1 Buffalo ERIE 23 Mar, 7 May (PY, JF); FMCSP 10 May; good showing.
Common Raven: becoming more regular throughout Reg.
Horned Lark: max 52 Bethany GENE 4 Mar.
Purple Martin: arr Yates ORLE 30 Mar; max 75 Long Pt SP CHAU 18 May.
Tree Swallow: arr TWMA 13 Mar; max 500 INWR 18 Apr.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr Buffalo ERIE 4 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr 2 BOSAC; max 125 BWWTP 3 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr AmSP 16 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr 2 INWR 30 Mar; max 500 BWWTP 3 May.
House Wren: arr 8 BOSAC.
Winter Wren: arr SPWS 24 Mar.
Sedge Wren: 2-3 CSWMA 20-25 May (TL), only report.
Marsh Wren: arr INWR 18 Apr.
Carolina Wren: 18 BOSAC; 27 BOSMC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 7 BOSAC.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Tifft NP 29 Mar; last Unity I NR 31 May.

Veery: arr multiple locs 1 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr FLC 8 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr JAS, Buffalo ERIE 5 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr Scio ALLE 4 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr AISP 25 Apr.
Gray Catbird: RWNP 25 Mar, wintered; arr TBNP 5 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr multiple locs 7 Apr.
American Pipit: arr N Collins ERIE 31 Mar; very few reports and low numbers.
Evening Grosbeak: 27 BOSAC; max 30, 16 Arkwright CHAU 16 Apr, 1 May; 15 Machias CATT 4 May; last 2 BOSMC; reported from six other locs; good showing.
Purple Finch: max 45 Porter NIAG 3 May (VR).
Common Redpoll: Newfane NIAG 9, 26 Mar; max 25, 22 Wilson NIAG 17 Mar, 6 Apr; 2 LBSP 24 Mar.
Red Crossbill: 7-12 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 12-23 Apr (DC); only reports.
Pine Siskin: 44 E Aurora ERIE 22 Mar; max 47 Orangeville WYOM 3 May; 35 S Wales ERIE 16 May.
Lapland Longspur: last Jamestown Airport CHAU 31 Mar; five other reports of singles in Mar.
Snow Bunting: max 300 Sheldon WYOM 1 Mar; 200 Bethany GENE 9 Mar; 100 Randolph CHAU 5 Mar; last Hartland NIAG 12 Apr.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr EvSP, N Harmony CHAU 21 Mar.
American Tree Sparrow: last TBNP 2 May.
Chipping Sparrow: Newfane NIAG 2 Mar; arr Portland CHAU 18 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr FLC 1 May; reported from nine other locs.
Field Sparrow: arr 2 AmSP 14 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr 3 Evans ERIE 6 Apr; more reports in Apr than usual.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Jamestown Airport CHAU 31 Mar.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr TBNP 2 May; AmSP 3 May; 2 Lockport NIAG 16 May; 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 17 May.
Fox Sparrow: Rushford ALLE 3, 6 Mar, wintered; arr Ashford CATT, Brocton CHAU 16 Mar; max 5 FLC 12 Apr; last Ashford CATT, Tifft NP 2 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Jamestown CHAU 1 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr Tifft NP 20 Mar.
White-crowned Sparrow: last Shelby ORLE 25 May.
Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: 1-2 Wilson NIAG 9-17 Apr (WD, BP), rare.
Yellow-breasted Chat: no reports.
Bobolink: arr Ischua CATT 1 May.
Eastern Meadowlark: arr Dunkirk Airport CHAU 13 Mar; 11 Yates 30 Mar.
Orchard Oriole: arr Portland CHAU, Orchard Park ERIE 1 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Hamburg ERIE 27 Apr.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 500 Pomfret CHAU 10 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: BuSP 1-9 Mar, wintered; max 80 INWR 13 Apr; 75 Shelby ORLE 20 Apr; last 2 BuSP 18 May.
Common Grackle: max 12000 Buffalo ERIE 29 Mar (KR), high count; 3500 Tifft NP 2 Apr.
Ovenbird: arr multiple locs 1 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: BufH 4-6 May (SS), only report.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr AmSP 12 Apr; max 4 Hunter's Creek CP ERIE 25 Apr.
Northern Waterthrush: arr JAS 19 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Knox Farm SP ERIE, Amherst ERIE 1 May; 1, 1 AmSP 5-9, 16 May; BeSP 7 May; FLC 9 May; BuSP 11 May.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr Jamestown CHAU 30 Apr.
"Brewster's" Warbler: OOWMA 6 May; GHSP 22 May; only reports.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: INWR 20 May (TM); regular location in recent years.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr JAS 27 Apr.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr Tifft NP 24, 25 Apr (DS, GR, PY); FLC 10 May (RA); INWR 15 May; BuSP 17 May (TK, AN); OOWMA 22 May; three reports in migration more than usual; others breeding locs.
Tennessee Warbler: arr 3 Alexander GENE 2 May; max 25 CSWMA 20 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Lancaster ERIE 9 May; FLC 17 May; AmSP 17, 22 May; WTSP 20 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr AmSP 23 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: arr AmSP 7 May.

Common Yellowthroat: arr multiple locs 1 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr Wellsville ALLE, Harmony CHAU 3 May.
American Redstart: arr multiple locs 1 May; max 31 LBSP 19 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr FNSP 1 May; max 50 FLC 14 May (AH); good numbers.
Cerulean Warbler: arr INWR 5 May; BMAC 6 May; AISP 16, 25 May.
Northern Parula: arr AmSP 29 Apr; max 40 FLC 14 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr multiple locs 1 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr JAS 4 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 2 Jamestown CHAU 30 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr NF 25 Apr; max 65 BuSP 29 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr AmSP 30 Apr.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Chautauqua CHAU 15 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr multiple locs 1 May; max 45 FLC 14 May (MD), good numbers.
Palm Warbler: arr Evans ERIE 17 Apr; max 60 AmSP 8 May.
Pine Warbler: arr 2 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 27 Mar.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Fredonia CHAU 27 Mar; max 220 GHSP 3 May (WD).
Yellow-throated Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 27 Apr (HF, LL); AmSP 8-11 May (WD).
Prairie Warbler: arr Amherst ERIE, LBSP, FLC 3 May; more migrant reports than usual.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Persia CATT 22 Apr.
Canada Warbler: arr WFWMA, FLC 9 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Ischua CATT, FLC 9 May.
SUMMER TANGER (R1): arr Olean CATT 29 Apr-2 May (DC); Hamburg ERIE 7 May (BK); Long Pt SP CHAU 11 May (KV); Wilson NIAG 19 May (WD, BP, JK); good showing.
Scarlet Tanager: arr Jamestown CHAU 29 Apr.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Chautauqua Institution CHAU 19 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr Persia CATT 1 May.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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Overall, the spring of 2019 was relatively benign; no major snow events and most of the serious weather missing us to our south. Spring seemed slow arriving. The impacts on birds and birding are, as usual, in the details. March started cold for eight days followed by 14 of the last 22 days at above normal temperatures, with a spike to 70°F on the 14th. Temperatures averaged 33.5°, 0.8° below normal. Precipitation totaled 1.72", 0.78" below normal, with 13.9" of snow, 2.4" below normal. There was not much problem other than some snow events during commuting periods. April brought a typical spring-like month, with a bit of snow to start and end and periods of cool alternating with warm spells throughout. The more severe weather passed south of the Region. Temperatures averaged 46.9°, 0.6° above normal, and precipitation totaled 2.74", 0.01" above normal. Snowfall at 2.2" was 1.7" below normal but kept alive the history of all but one year seeing some snowfall in April since record keeping began in 1884. Lake Ontario remained cool, with persistent north winds, keeping leaf-out near the lakeshore delayed and bird arrivals seeming late. The lake level was back to very high again. May was a wet, cool month, with spring phenology, especially for local flora, continuing delayed. Temperatures in May averaged 56.5°, 0.5° below normal. No temperature records were set, and only two days reached above 80°. Precipitation totaled 2.60", 0.27" below normal. The first half of the month saw see-saw temperatures and passing showers, then things warmed up and dried out. There were thunderstorms with high winds on the 23rd and 25th. The major weather feature affecting migrants was persistent areas of major storms to our south and west, between us and the origins of most of our later migrants.

Generally, most of March was not conducive to migration. Arrivals were slow, but those noted were mainly in the interquartile range of their historical arrival date distributions. On into April, nearly all expected species were found, and the total species for the month and year to date were well above their 10-year averages. May continued with things seeming late due to delayed leaf-out, but arrivals were still biased to the first quartile of their distributions. eBird data downloads for these months were 32,156, 56,542, and 104,840, all up substantially from last year. In May, with Global Big Day, there were 470 distinct observers posting to eBird. Going forward, recall that we are using the new (2018) checklist order, though waterfowl still come first.

In all three months, essentially all expected waterfowl species were reported. In March, we start with Snow Goose reported in good numbers to 23,000 at the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA after this) (Carnecross Rd.) on 24 March and lingering through the season, with one still in the NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) area on 26 May. The rarer geese were: five Greater White-fronted Geese from 18-24 March, a Ross's Goose in the NMWMA

(Savannah Muckland) on 24 March, and at least 87 Cackling Geese, with a maximum of 23 on 16 March on Jacobs Rd. in the Town of Hamlin, Monroe County, and the last three on 6 April in Hamlin. Mute Swans continued in large numbers on the ponds along the south shore of Lake Ontario west of Rochester, Trumpeter Swans continued in small numbers mainly in the NMWMA, and a good movement of 850 Tundra Swans was tallied passing the Braddock Bay hawk watch on 14 March, with 430 in Livingston County on 19 March and 500 at NMWMA (Carncross Rd.) on 24 March also good counts. Puddle ducks had some good counts, including: 450 Gadwall on Braddock Bay on 19 March, 769 American Wigeon on Braddock Bay 26 March, 1,455 Mallards at NMWMA (Deep Muck) and 1,115 at NMWMA (Marten Tract) on 29 March, 5,000 Northern Pintail at NMWMA (Carncross Rd.) on 20 March, and 573 Green-winged Teal at NMWMA (Morgan Rd. marshes) on 29 March, with some additional good counts into April. Eurasian Wigeon was missed in February this year but reported at three sites in March and one more site in April. Departure dates for the puddle ducks were typical late May dates. Diving duck counts were more modest, but good tallies included: 275 Canvasback at Sodus Point on 16 March, 2,000 Redhead on Conesus Lake on 28 March, 667 Ring-necked Ducks at NMWMA (Morgan Rd. marshes) on 29 March, 1,000 scaup on Conesus Lake on 2 April, 150 Bufflehead on Braddock Bay on 16 March, 500 Common Mergansers off Edgemere Dr. (Greece) on 9 March, 3,000 Red-breasted Mergansers off West Port Bay Rd., Wayne County on 2 March, and 71 Ruddy Ducks on Silver Lake, Wyoming County on 10 April. Rarer diving ducks were: an adult male King Eider photographed at Sodus Point on 9 and 10 March and a Barrow's Goldeneye photographed at Irondequoit Bay and seen on 3, 5, and 14 April. Grebes were generally low, but there were good counts of 367 and 1,136 Red-necked Grebes at Hamlin Beach SP on 26 and 29 March, respectively.

Common Nighthawk was reported in better than usual numbers, with 58 in Greece on 25 May the best (though with rumor of a much higher count by a credible observer not submitted). Eastern Whip-poor-will was again scarce but at least reported from 3-19 May along the Lake Ontario shore. 57 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) from 9-30 May, near the average for the recent eight years. Common Gallinule was reported early at the Braddock Bay hawk watch on 30 March and with a peak count of 100 at the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) on 16 May, where very large numbers were found last summer. Sandhill Crane numbers were good both passing the Braddock Bay hawk watch (~105) and at several sites scattered about the Region (> 40), some of which were breeding locations from recent years.

The shorebird story was again impacted by high Lake Ontario water levels, rising to record high by late May, and limited wet field habitat. The wet fields increased later in the season but were largely unused (or not visited by birders) locally. March saw even the typically early species arriving later, with Killdeer on 10 March, American Woodcock on 14 March, Wilson's Snipe on 24 March, and only five species by month's end. April improved a bit, with some decent

counts for Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, and both yellowlegs at NMWMA (Carncross Rd.). Early arrivals included: American Golden-Plover, relatively rare in spring, on 19 April at Carncross Rd.; rare in spring and record early Sanderling on 8 April at Irondequoit Bay Outlet; six Dunlin on 3 April at Carncross Rd.; and Willet on 26 April, with five at Irondequoit Bay Outlet from 12:16 to 3:47 PM and six passing off Edgemere Dr. in Greece (9.6 miles northwest) at 4:30 PM. Other rarities were: American Avocet at Sodus Point on 26 April and a **Ruff** found and photographed by Greg Lawrence at Carncross Rd. on 10 April and remaining to the 15th. In May we rose to 24 shorebird species reported, with rare in spring American Golden-Plover, our sixth spring Piping Plover at the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 10-11 May, and a Hudsonian Godwit at Carncross Rd. on 24 May. In the scarce but annual category, we had records for Whimbrel, more Sanderlings, another Willet, and Wilson's Phalarope at two locations. Upland Sandpiper arrived in April, but none were reported in May. Good counts in May were few, but the best were: 60 Ruddy Turnstones at Sodus Point on 26 May; 300 Dunlin and 250 Least Sandpipers on the 24th at Carncross Rd.; 1,290 Semipalmated Sandpipers at the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 26 May; 70 Lesser Yellowlegs at Carncross Rd. on 4 May; and 23 Short-billed Dowitchers, high for recent years, at Hamlin Beach SP on 17 May. Departure dates for most species were typical.

Moving on to the larids, we were back to more normal numbers to a bit low after the huge gatherings of 2018. The first spring Bonaparte's Gull was not until 15 March, with a maximum of only 377 on 18 April. Ring-billed Gull maxima were only 2,000 in both March and April, Herring Gull 3,500 on 23 March, and Great Black-backed Gull a low 35 on 16 March. The only rarer gull reports were a partially hidden Laughing/Franklin's Gull photographed by Greg Lawrence on the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 19 May and three reports of adult Little Gull on 3, 14, and 28 April. Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers totaled about 32 in March, 47 at 15 locations in April, and only about four at three locations in May. The usual white-winged gulls of winter, Iceland and Glaucous, were relatively low in number in March and April and unreported in May. In April, the usual terns arrived at typical to slightly late dates. By May, Caspian Tern peaked with 286 at Irondequoit Bay Outlet on 12 May, and 80 Black Terns were counted in the NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) area on 8 May. A first Regional spring record for **Least Tern** was a passing bird at the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 27 May seen by Andy Guthrie and Chris Wood.

In the loons to waders grouping, we start slow with Red-throated Loon never reaching double digits and the Common Loon maximum a low 134 on 28 April. After that we jump to the Bird of the Season, the Region's first **Magnificent Frigatebird**, seen and photographed passing the Hamlin Beach SP lakewatch by Andy Guthrie and Brian Morse on 27 April. There were a number of good counts of Double-crested Cormorant at Braddock Bay through April and May and at Sodus Point in May. Also rare were: American White Pelican, with 1-2 from Braddock Bay to Sodus Bay from 8-24 April and again at Braddock Bay from 15-

17 and 26 May, and a Glossy Ibis in the NMWMA (Carcross Rd.) area 7-17 April plus three Glossy Ibis seen flying over Edgemere Drive (Greece) on 29 May by Mitchell Barry. Additionally, there were a relatively early American Bittern on 30 March and Great Egret on 28 March from the Braddock Bay hawk watch and a record early Least Bittern on 17 April found at the West Spit of Braddock Bay by Mike Gullo.

The official hawk counter at Braddock Bay this spring was David Brown, who also brought a broad interest in documenting the overall migration and in posting data to eBird. Overall numbers of hawks were well ahead of last year through the season. The final tally at 63,763 was about 1/3 above last year's total. The season began slow and lumpy in March, with 4,017 birds by month's end and a typical 77% of those Turkey Vultures. April improved with the arrival of Broad-winged Hawks and some good days; 11 days produced counts of > 1,000 hawks. Highlights were 5,473 Broad-winged Hawks on the 18th, and an adult light morph **Swainson's Hawk** on the 13th. It was a very good year for Black Vulture both at the hawk watch and elsewhere. There were seven by the hawk watch in March, with a high of four on 21 March, then four again on 20 May. A subadult **Mississippi Kite** was recorded on 20 May. The hawk watch also recorded a good-for-recent-years six Northern Goshawks. Another highlight was the Bald Eagle passage, with a new single-day high of 124 on 16 May surpassed by 128 on 20 May. The old record for the season of 1,094 was equaled on 25 May and the month ended with season's total of Bald Eagles at 1,194. Broad-winged Hawk peaked at 7,478 passing the hawk watch on 5 May. A summary can be found in this report and more daily details at the hawkcount website.

Wrapping up the non-passerine landbirds, there were only two Snowy Owls reported, and the Short-eared Owl surveys out of the DEC's Avon office logged a very high 44 individuals on the late March survey but then dropped to none reported after the second week in April. The roost count of owls in the Owl Woods area on the west side of Manitou Beach Road tallied 85 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 30 Long-eared Owls for these three months, bringing the full season's count total to 96 (just short of record high) and 31 (just below the recent average), respectively. Adding interest to that count was a Barred Owl first found roosting on 28 March, photographed by many, and seen off and on after through May. For Red-headed Woodpecker, most sightings were in Durand-Eastman Park (Rochester) until numbers jumped in May to ~ 30 at 20 locations. Observers at the East Spit of Braddock caught a good spring movement of 152 Northern Flickers on 13 April. The regular three falcons were all tallied in good, typical numbers both at the hawk watch and around the Region.

Passerines accounted for over half of the reports for the season, and there are so many interesting observations that only a sampling can be provided here. The RBA noteworthy records and the BBBO banding tables provide more detailed information for those seriously interested. March started slowly, with only Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow (record early), American Pipit, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Rusty Blackbird new-for-the-year arrivals. Other species

considered arrivals by data study and judgment call, since they also overwintered, were: Eastern Phoebe, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. With even stronger wintering presence were: Winter Wren, Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. Most of those “arrival” dates were not especially early. April continued the slow start, with only 684 birds banded for the month at BBBO, only four warbler species banded, and only 12 warbler species reported. In April and May there were several species early to record early relative to the 1984 arrival-date distributions, but none record early after looking at all the data since then to date. Several of the species that are noted for large spring movements produced good counts: Blue Jay – 5,350 at Hamlin Beach SP and 5,000 at the Braddock Bay hawk watch on 10 May; American Crow – a relatively low maximum 650 at the hawk watch on 27 March; and American Robin – 1,500 at the hawk watch on 31 March. As we move into May, we build a more complete picture of the passerines. All regularly reported species were recorded, with only the rare White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler, almost regulars, missed. Blocking weather systems to our south and west resulted in some exciting bursts of arrivals and high counts. For some of the common species there were large numbers of reports, best indicated as numbers of lines in the Regional eBird download for May. Examples are Baltimore Oriole – 2,422 lines, Red-winged Blackbird – 3,044, Common Grackle – 2,485, Yellow Warbler – 539, Yellow-rumped Warbler – 1,249, and Northern Cardinal – 3,126.

Continuing to look through the data, my choices for interesting items to note start with the rarities: a Bohemian Waxwing on 18 April; about five Clay-colored Sparrows; one Yellow-breasted Chat banded on 19 May and hanging around to be seen or heard on 25-26 May; “Lawrence’s” Warbler at the hawk watch on 10 May and in Mendon Ponds Park on 11 and 31 May; Prothonotary Warbler again nesting along Armitage Road in the NMWMA; a Kentucky Warbler found dead and photographed in Penfield on 3 May; Yellow-throated Warbler at Hamlin Beach SP on 18 May and in the NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) area on 16 May; at least 14 reports for Prairie Warbler; and an immature male Summer Tanager at a feeder in Webster from 12-14 May. Many often track Golden-winged Warbler as a species of special concern—eight reports—and Orange-crowned Warbler as a scarcer migrant—~32 reports plus three banded at BBBO. It is hard to avoid a sea of numbers, so let’s just toss in that several of the flycatchers, Red-eyed Vireo, and several of the thrushes were late arriving and seen in only low numbers. Yet there was a good number of 5-6 Olive-sided Flycatcher reports and many Least Flycatchers were banded.

Back to numbers, while most counts were relatively low, there were actually many high counts, examples being: 3,000 Tree Swallows at the hawk watch on 1 May; 4,000 Barn Swallows at Braddock Bay on both 1 and 3 May; 50 Hermit Thrush at Sodus Point on 2 May; 2,610 Common Grackles in Wolcott, Wayne County, on 19 April; 47 American Redstarts at the west end of Hamlin Beach SP on 26 May; 91 Palm Warblers banded at BBBO on 10 May; and 500 Yellow-

rumped Warblers in the Greece firehouse woods on 4 May. More details are in the species section that follows. Digging into the BBBO banding data a bit more, we find this year's total about 20% above last year's even with 5% fewer net hours. This is only slightly above the average total for the past seven years. Looking at the specifics, we find numbers for eight species significantly (two standard deviations) above their seven-year averages: Least Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow. Only two species, Red-eyed Vireo and Common Yellowthroat, were banded in significantly lower numbers. Once again, Black-capped Chickadee was on the up side of its alternate-year see-saw, with 232 banded vs. six last year, and Winter Wren was down, continuing its annual see-saw opposite to the chickadees, though also in lower total numbers.

This had been a year of high hopes for winter finches that did not live up to expectations. Still, several species were present each month, though typically in small numbers. Evening Grosbeak still had the best showing in many years, Pine Grosbeak produced only scattered singles, a Hoary Redpoll continued to 3 March, the Common Redpoll maximum was a decent 275 on 9 March, and Evening Grosbeak and Common Redpoll both lingered to typical May departure dates.

The usual monthly statistical summary gives us totals of species seen: March – 146 vs. a prior 10-year average of 140.2, April – 199 vs. 200.4, and May – 244 vs. 237.9. Rarities were a bit low, but we did top them off with the Regional first spring Least Tern and the Regional first Magnificent Frigatebird.

To end on a lighter note, from my own back yard we have observations to wonder about. Typically we have only sporadic and very brief visits by warblers in recent years and almost no window strikes near our bird feeders. On one May morning a surprise was several thumps and a dead Common Yellowthroat and an American Robin plus two Ovenbirds lying upside down. We moved the Ovenbirds to safe spots, and one recovered very quickly, the other slowly. We had Ovenbirds around the yard singing for more than a week following. In only very recent years we have put out a jelly feeder now frequented mostly by Baltimore Orioles and Gray Catbirds. This year on that same window-strike day we had Black-throated Blue Warbler arrive to become “addicted” to the jelly and to stay, with another male and a female joining in, for 10 days. The warblers would even drive the orioles off the jelly. Through the month other birders also posted that warbler species fed at their jelly feeders.

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BRADDOCK BAY HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	3/15	4	3/21, 5/20	11
Turkey Vulture	3/4	3,529	4/8	25,813
Osprey	3/28	47	4/12	429
Golden Eagle	3/10	4	4/21	30
No. Harrier	3/10	89	4/18	780
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/8	702	4/18	3,256
Cooper's Hawk	3/9	28	4/8	221
No. Goshawk	3/22	1	6 dates	6
Bald Eagle	3/2	128	5/20	1,194
Mississippi Kite	5/20	1	5/20	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/11	72	3/15	325
Broad-winged Hawk	4/13	5,473	4/18	29,699
Swainson's Hawk	4/13	1	4/13	1
Red-tailed Hawk	3/1	154	4/13	1,400
Rough-legged Hawk	3/9	8	4/18	63
Am. Kestrel	3/15	75	4/18	428
Merlin	3/18	10	5/1	56
Peregrine Falcon	3/3	13	5/1	48
Unidentified				0
Total including unidentified:				63,763

ABBREVIATIONS

b – indicates banded this season, usually at BBBO's Kaiser-Manitou passerine banding station; **BB** – Braddock Bay, MONR; **BB-ES** – East Spit at mouth of Braddock including newly constructed barrier beach island just off spit; **BB-HW** – Braddock Bay Hawkwatch; **BB-WS** – West Spit of Braddock Bay; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; **CIWMA** – Conesus In WMA, LIVI; **ConL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester; **ED** – off Edgemere Dr., T Greece, MONR; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-W**

– Hamlin Beach SP, West end trails; **HB-YC** – Hamlin Beach SP, Yanty Creek trails at east end; **ICW** – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – Irondequoit Bay south, LaSalle Landing P and nearby; **IB-W** – west side of Irondequoit Bay water and parks; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M** – Manitou Beach area, MONR; **M-OW** – Owl Woods area west of Manitou Beach Rd, MONR; **MAC** – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NHamRd** – N. Hamlin Road, T Hamlin, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T of Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd.; **NMWMA (CR)** – along Carncross Road east of Savannah-Spring L Rd.; **NMWMA (MT)** – Marten Tract off Savannah Spring L Rd; **NMWMA (MRdM)** – Morgan Rd. marshes near DEC field office; **NMWMA (VDS)** – area along Van Dyne Spoor, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (SCU)** – Sandhill Crane Unit, T Savannah, WAYN; **OB** – Ontario Beach P, T Charlotte MONR; **PtB** – Point Breeze, Orleans County at border with Region 1; **SalCrk** – Salmon Creek , T Greece, MONR; **SPt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon, LIVI; **W** – T of Webster, MONR; **WP** – Webster P.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 10000 MAC 15 Mar (AJ); max 23000 NMWMA (CR) 24 Mar (GD); last NMWMA (VDS) 26 May (JBoe).

Ross's Goose: NMWMA (Savannah Mucklands) 24 Mar (JWi).

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2 Hemlock L P 18 Mar (RSt); NMWMA (CR) 19 Mar (MG); Jacobs Rd, H 23 Mar (AGu); SalCrk 24 Mar (CW).

Brant: arr 2 IB-W 23 May; last off Edgemere Dr., G 28 May.

Cackling Goose: 37 rep, 87 ind 17 loc 1-24 Mar; max 23 Jacobs Rd., H 16 Mar (AGu); last 3 Church Rd, H 6 Apr (AGu).

Canada Goose: max 27,500 BB-HW 14 Mar (DBro).

Snow x Canada Goose: N Ponds P, Webster 20-23 Mar (GF, JWi, NK).

Mute Swan: max 150 BB-HW 13, 14 Mar (DBro, DBru); 107 Buck Pd, G 9 May; 47 South Port Bay WAYN 142 May.

Trumpeter Swan: max 19 NMWMA MRdM) 16 Apr; still mainly in the NMWMA and nearby.

Tundra Swan: max 850 BB-HW 14 Mar (DBro); 430 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds LIVI 19 Mar (NK); 500 NMWMA (CR) 24 Mar (GD); last Buck Pd, G 6 May.

Wood Duck: max 56 CIWMA 28 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 BB-HW 19 Mar.

Northern Shoveler: arr BB-HW 10 Mar; max 45 BB-HW 15 Mar; last 3 NMWMA (CR) 26 May.

Gadwall: max 450 BB-HW 10 Mar (MBa); 300 NMWMA (VDS) 13 Apr (JMcG, LS).

Eurasian Wigeon: arr Jacobs Rd, H 21 Mar (AGu); 1m BB-HW 24-31 Mar, 8 Apr (DBro, mob); 1m NMWMA (CR) 24-30 Mar (MG); 1m CL 3 Apr (BCar).

American Wigeon: max 769 BB 26 Mar (KB), many reports of >600 there in late Mar; 400 NMWMA (VDS) area 3; 13 Apr (DDa; JMcGo, LS).

Mallard: max 1455 NMWMA (MRdM) 29 Mar (MW); 1115 NMWMA (MT) 29 Mar (MF).

American Black Duck: max 220 NMWMA (MT) 29Mar (MF).

Northern Pintail: 5000 NMWMA (CR) 20 Mar (MH); max 6025 NMWMA (MRdM) 29 Mar (MW); last NMWMA (VDS) 26 May (JBoe).

Green-winged Teal: max 573 NMWMA (MRdM) 29 Mar (MW); last Burger P, G 27 May.

Canvasback: max 275 SPt 16 Mar (NK).

Redhead: max 2000 ConL 28 Mar (MW), low max.

Ring-necked Duck: max 667 NMWMA (MRdM) 29 Mar (MW).

Greater Scaup: max 730 Sodus Bay 10 Mar; last off Edgemere Dr, G 18 May.

Lesser Scaup: max 250 BB-HW 24 Mar; last BB-HW 30 May.

King Eider: 1 ad m SPt 9; 10 Mar (SBI, BWal; DDo, MG, LoK, ST), ph both dates.

Surf Scoter: last HB 6 May.

White-winged Scoter: max 250 SPt 9 Mar, low max; last 2 HB 18 May.

Black Scoter: last off OB 4 Apr.

Long-tailed Duck: max 1410 HB 5 May (AGu); last HB 28 May.

Bufflehead: max 150 BB 16 Mar; last 2 BB-HW 23 May.

Common Goldeneye: max 200 BB 16 Mar; last HB 24 May (AGu).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (R2): imm m Irondequoit Bay – NE 3; 5, 14 Apr (JiM; MG), ph.

Hooded Merganser: max 120 CIWMA 19 Mar.

Common Merganser: max 500 off Edgemere Dr, G 9 Mar (MBa).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 3000 West Port Bay Pt WAYN 2 Mar (JMcG, LS); 950 HB 13 May (AGu), good later count.

Ruddy Duck: max 71 Silver L WYOM 10 Apr (RS).

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 19 Nations Rd survey 5 May (MW), good count for recent years.

Horned Grebe: max 49 HB 18 Apr, low max; last BB-ES 15 May.

Red-necked Grebe: 367 HB 27 Mar (BCar); max 1136 HB 29 Mar (AGu), good count; last BB-ES 27 May.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: no reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Honeoye Falls, MONR 5 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr BB-WS & MAC 10 May.

Common Nighthawk: arr 2 G 7 May; max 58 G 25 May (CW).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr 2 M-OW & 1 HB-YC 3 May; last G 19 May.

Chimney Swift: arr BB-ES 18 Apr (GL), early; max 60 IB-W 11 May (TL).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 4 loc 1 May; total b 57 M 9-30 May (BBBO), near 7-yr average.

RAILS – LARIDS

Virginia Rail: arr HANA 6 Apr (AGa).

Sora: arr NMWMA (Deep Muck) 17 Apr.

Common Gallinule: arr BB-HW 30 Mar (DBro), early; max 100 NMWMA (SCU) 16 May (JR).

Sandhill Crane: arr Allen Rd, Savannah 2 Mar; total 21 BB-HW 21-31 Mar; total 28+ at 4+ oth loc Mar; total ~50 BB-HW 1-25 Apr; max 19 NMWMA (MRdM) 8 Apr; total 34 BB-HW 5-30 May; 29 ind sev oth loc May.

AMERICAN AVOCET (R2): SPt 26 Apr (MG, KGa, KMcGa, W&MR, JWi), many ph.

Black-bellied Plover: arr 1 BB-ES & 2 NMWMA (CR) 4 May.

American Golden-Plover: arr 3 NMWMA (CR) 19 Apr (MMi), early; 1 alt NMWMA (CR) 25-27 May (JMcGo, LS, mob, ph); rare in spring.

Semipalmated Plover: arr Chimney Blufs WAYH 27 Apr; max 75 NMWMA (CR) 24 May (SP).

PIPING PLOVER (R2): BB-ES 10-11 May (GL, 17+ oth obs, ph), 6th Reg spring record.

Killdeer: arr T Perinton MONR 10 Mar.

Upland Sandpiper: arr Wiler Rd, H 21 Apr (AGu, PMar), only rep.

Whimbrel: arr HB & Moscow Rd, H 24 May (AGu); HB 28 May (DT, AGu, ph).

Hudsonian Godwit: NMWMA (CR) 24 May (GD, MG), rare in spring.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr BB-ES 11 May (BriM, mob), early; max 60 SPt 26 May (MG).

Red Knot: arr BB 26 May (AGu, CW); only 3 rep.

RUFF: arr 1 f NMWMA (CR) 10-15 Apr (GL, mob), many ph, 17th Reg record.

Sanderling: arr IBO 8 Apr (JiM, ph), Reg record early; max 16 BB-ES 26 May (CW), usually scarce in spring.

Dunlin: arr 6 NMWMA (CR) 3 Apr (DDa), early; max 300 NMWMA (CR) 24 May (SP).

Least Sandpiper: arr 2 Redman Rd, Brockport 1 May; max 250 NMWMA (CR) 24 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 5 Moscow Rd, H 23 May; 6+ ind 4 loc 24-31 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Jones Bridge & Perry Rds LIVI 29 Mar; max 44 NMWMA (CR) 16 Apr.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 5 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds LIVI 13 May; max 1290 BB-ES 29 May (CW), good count.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr sev loc 10 May; max 23 HB 17 May.

American Woodcock: arr 1-2 ind 3 loc 14 Mar.

Wilson's Snipe: arr 2 NMWMA (CR) 24 Mar; max 37 NMWMA (CR) Nations Rd 11 Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr TCEA 17 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 TCEA 19 Apr (JK); last Jones Bridge & Perry Rds LIVI 23 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 8 NMWMA (CR) 3 Apr; max 70 NMWMA (CR) 4 May (SBI, JMcG); last 1-2 BB-ES & NMWMA (CR) 26 May.

Willet: arr 5 IBO 26 Apr (JiM, LM, 11 oth obs, ph), 12:16 – 3:47 PM; 6 off Edgemere Dr., G 26 Apr (MBA), 9.6 mi NW of IBO, headed NW, 4:30 PM; OB 10 May (GL, ShG, BCar, JiM).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 4 NMWMA (CR) 22 Mar (BMcG, KKe); max 105 NMWMA (CR) 27 Apr (JMcG, LS); last 3 NMWMA (CR) 27 May (AGu).

Wilson's Phalarope: Jones Bridge & Perry Rds LIVI 10-13 May (JK, DBea, *et al.*); 1-2 NMWMA (CR) 18-22 May (JMcG, LS, 12+ oth obs).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2-4 BB-HW 15 Mar; max 377 HB 18 Apr.

Little Gull: arr 1 ad Sodus Bay 3 Apr (JWi); 1 ad HB 14 Apr (AGu); 1 ad HB 28 Apr (AGu).

LAUGHING/FRANKLIN'S GULL: 1 ad BB-ES 19 May (GL, ph), mostly hidden, so ID not certain to species.

Ring-billed Gull: 1800 Jacobs Rd, H 6 Apr; IB-S 11 Mar; max 2000 IB) 23 Mar; max 2000 Church Rd, H 7 Apr.

Herring Gull: max 3500 IB-W 23 Mar (TL).

Iceland Gull: 12+ ind 10 loc Mar; total 5 ind 3 loc 6-18 Apr; none May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 6 IB-NE 20 Mar (RRe); 32+ ind 14 loc 8-31 Mar; ~ 47 ind 15 loc Apr; max 6 Church Rd, H 8 Apr (AGu); 1 1st sum HB 23-24 May (AGu, ph); 1 1st sum OB 23 May (AGu, ph).

Glaucous Gull: total 5 ind 5 loc 1-23 Mar; 4 ind 4 loc Mar; 6 ind 5 loc 4-30 Apr; none May.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 35 IBO 16 Mar, low max.

LEAST TERN (R2): BB-ES 27 May (AGu, CW), 1st Reg spring, passing bird.

Caspian Tern: arr 1-2 5 loc 7 Apr; 170 SPt 1 May (MG); max 286 IBO 12 May (AGu).

Black Tern: arr 3 BB 27 Apr; HB 27 Apr; max 80 NMWMA (VDS) 8 May (MG), good count.

Common Tern: arr 2 BB-HW 12 Apr; max 44 OB 12 May.

Forster's Tern: arr IB-S 14 Apr.

LOONS - FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: max 6 HB 18, 20, 28 Apr, 18 May, very low; last 4 HB 28 May.

Common Loon: max 134 HB 28 Apr, low.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: imm HB 27 Apr (AGu, BriM), photo, 1st Reg record.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr Genesee R, Charlotte 8 Mar; max 900 BB-HW 23 Apr (DBro).

American White Pelican: arr 2 BB area 8, 18 Apr (mob); 1-2 IB-S 9-22 Apr (mob); N Pnds P, Webster 22 Apr (JWi); Sodus Bay area 22-24 Apr (8 obs); 1 BB-HW & nearby 15-17, 26 May (DBro, BWat, mob); hard to assign number of birds involved.

American Bittern: arr BB-HW 30 Mar (DBro), early.

Least Bittern: arr BB-WS 17 Apr (MG), Reg record early.

Great Blue Heron: max 100 NMWMA (VDS) 18 May.

Great Egret: arr BB-HW & SalCrk 28 Mar (DBro, *et al.*, RSp), early.

Green Heron: arr Old Duck Inn, T Tyre WAYN 12 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Edgemere Dr, G 12 Apr.

Glossy Ibis: NMWMA (CR) 7-15 Apr (MAP, JWi, mob), many ph; 3 over Edgemere Dr, G 29 May (MBA).

Black Vulture: first Cornwall Pres WAYN 14 Mar (MG, ph); total 7 non-hawk watch 5 loc 14-24 Mar; M-OW 13 Apr (JiM, LM, 8 oth obs, ph); 2 Mareeta Rd, Rochester 5 May (B&BM, LH). **Turkey Vulture:** total 3112 BB-HW Mar, 77% of total raptors for Mar.

Osprey: arr 3 loc 24 Mar.

Golden Eagle: arr Airport MONR 3 Mar (CWh); 5 ind 5 non-HW loc 3-28 Mar; 11 ind 9 non-HW loc 2-26 Apr; ~5 ind 4 non-HW loc 4-10 May.

Northern Goshawk: M-OW 16 Apr (MN); Broadway Rd WAYN 18 Apr (MG); M-OW 5 May (NPU); Newark WAYN 27 May (W&MR).

Bald Eagle: 396 lines eBird Mar; 464 lines eBird Apr; 622 lines eBird May; **124** BB-HW 6 May, new 1-day high; **128** BB-HW 20 May, new 1-day high; total **1194** BB-HW thru 31 May, new season high..

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 subad BB-HW 20 May (DBro, MBer).

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 45 BB-HW 13 Apr (DBro, *et al.*); 5473 BB-HW 18 Apr; 3000 Fields Hill Rd WAYN 21 Apr (W&MR); max 7478 BB-HW 5 May.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 ad light morph BB-HW 13 Apr DBro, JPow, MG).

Rough-legged Hawk: last BB-HW 15 May.

Snowy Owl: Brooks Ave, Rochester 6 Mar (MDen); Rt 414 nr WAYN line 24 Mar (JSI).

Barred Owl: M-OW 28 Mar, roosting, many ph, seen off and on thru 17 May.

Long-eared Owl: total 6 M-OW 14-27 Mar; WP 22 Apr; max 4 M-OW 13 Apr; total 18 M-OW 1-20 Apr; total 5 M-OW 1-17 May; BBBO 25 May (CW); season's total of 31 only slightly below recent average.

Short-eared Owl: 2 BB-HW 24 Mar, flying in from crossing the lake; max 44 DEC Avon office survey 16 Mar, new high total; last HB 18 Apr.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: total 49 M-OW Mar; max 8 M-OW 13 Apr; total 31 M-OW 3-21 Apr; Sherburne P, Walworth WAYH 9 Apr (MG, JWJ); Webster 20 Apr (AGw); total 6 M-OW 1-5 May; season total of 96 just short of record high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1-2 DEP 3 Mar, 17-30 Apr; nr Turning Pt P 7, 23, 26 Apr; total ~30 20 loc May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Cornwall Pres WAYN 29 Mar.

Northern Flicker: max 152 BB-ES 13 Apr (AGa, LOK, GL); oth counts 45-59 sev loc 12-18 Apr.

American Kestrel: BB-HW totals: Mar - 65, Apr - 285, & May - 78; 63+ ind many non-HW loc May.

Merlin: BB-HW totals: Mar - 6, Apr - 21, & May - 29; total ~28 at 20 non-HW loc Mar; 25 ind 22 non-HW loc 8-28 Apr; 42 ind many non-HW loc May.

Peregrine Falcon: BB-HW totals: Mar - 3, Apr - 7, & May - 38; ~24 ind 14 non-HW loc Mar; 29 ind 20 non-HW loc 4-27 Apr; 32 ind many non-HW loc May; nesting in downtown Rochester, typical, see posts rfalconcam website.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Recall, for species where the only notable record is arrival and that is in the date table, there will be no entry in this section.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr 2 Whiting Rd Nat Pres, Webster 15 May (JSI), I still there 16 May (KGa); BB-WS 19 May (JiM, LM, DSh, KDe) & 23 May (BCar, PMar, RRe); 1 Beechwood SP WAYN 26 May (DDa).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr M & Grandview Heights, G 19 May; total b 25 BBBO 20-31 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Bergen Swamp GENE & Briscoe Cove, North Rose WAYN & Zurich Bog WAYN 17 May.

“Traill’s” Flycatcher: arr 4b BBBO 19 May; max b 22 BBBO 30 May; total b 118 BBBO 19 May thru, good number.

Least Flycatcher: arr 1 b BBBO 2 May; total b 79 BBBO 2-30 May, high number b.

Eastern Phoebe: arr Purcell Rd, Canadice ONTA 15 Mar.

Northern Shrike: 9 ind 8 loc Mar; last BB 12 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 2 HB & Highland P, Rochester 2 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Canadice L Trail-W 19 Apr; total B 23 BBBO 20 Apr-2-30 May, high number b.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr BANC Pres, T Mendon MONR 13 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr 1 & 3 Cobbs Hill P, Rochester 2 May; total b 21 M 10-31 May, low.

Blue Jay: 1000-5000/day, 7 days BB-HW 5-20 May; 3875 BB-ES 17 May (GL); 3870 BB-ES 26 May (CW); max 5350 HB 10 May (AGU); 3230 HB 19 May (AGU); total b 167 BBBO 2 May thru.

American Crow: max 650 BB-HW 27 Mar, low max.

Fish Crow: still mostly along the Genesee River from Lake Ontario to Rochester, but spreading west into T Greece and scattered other reports; max 15 Broad St bridge, Rochester 24 May (JPow).

Horned Lark: max 250 BB-HW 30 Mar.

Purple Martin: arr BB & ICW 9 Apr; arr 3 NMWMA (MRdM) 9 Apr; max 50 MAC 8 May.

Tree Swallow: arr 4 BB-HW 14 Mar; max 3000 BB-HW 1 May (DBro, *et al.*).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr CIWMA 3 Apr; max 150 NMWMA (VDS) 4 May.

Bank Swallow: arr 5 Brown Rd, Wolcott WAYN 12 Apr; max 500 NMWMA (VDS) 4 May.

Cliff Swallow: arr 1+ 5 loc 18 Apr; max 41 Spt 18 May (LoK).

Barn Swallow: arr BB & Cornwall Pres WAYN 14 Mar (DBro, ph, MG), Reg record early; max 4000 BB 1 May & 3 May (DBro, DTc, GL). ConL 19 Apr.

Black-capped Chickadee: total b 232 BBBO 12 Apr -31 May, contrasted with 6 b in 2018, *intro.*

Red-breasted Nuthatch: total b 16 BBBO 12, 28 Apr, 11-19, 31 May, high number b.

Brown Creeper: total b 79 BBBO 12 Apr-8 May.

Winter Wren: arr 2 Buck Pnd, G 23 Mar (LC, RN), early; max 11 DEP 7 Apr (NK). .BB-WS & Harter Rd, T Sparta LIVI 31 Mar; total b 16 M (BBB) 19 Apr-7 May, an “up” year, *intro*.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 28 M-OW 13 Apr; max b 32 BBB0 14 Apr; total b 102 BBB0 12 Apr-15 May.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr HB-YC 3 Apr; 45 Maplewood P, Rochester 16 Apr (RB); 96 b BBB0 3 May; max 130 M-OW 4 May (MM-C); max b 130 BBB0 4 May; total b 632 BBB0 14 Apr-19 May; last 2 M-OW 25 May.
Veery: arr DEP & Powder Mills P 30 Apr.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr firehouse woods, G 10 May (mob, ph); arr Webster 10 May (R&SSp); total b 2 BBB0 19, 21 May, very low.
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell’s Thrush: total b 3 BBB0 19, 26, 29 May, very low.
Swainson’s Thrush: arr 4 loc 4 May; max b 13 BBB0 30 May, low; total b 50 BBB0 12-31 May.
Hermit Thrush: max 50 SPt 2 May (LoK); total b 37 M (BBBO) 23 Apr-8 May.
Wood Thrush: arr 2 Genesee Valley WMA 30 Apr.
American Robin: max 1500 BB-HW 31 Mar; only 3 oth rep Mar & 7 oth rep Apr over 100.
Gray Catbird: arr Brown Rd, Wolcott WAYNE 10 Apr (W&MR); max 31 CIWMA 23 May (WW); max 31 HB-W 24 May (AGu); max b 23 BBB0 19 May; total b 231 BBB0 2-31 May.
Bohemian Waxwing: BB-WS 18 Apr (BCar, WD'A, *et al.*), only report, Reg record late.
Cedar Waxwing: max 270 HB 19 May (AGu).
Am. Pipit: arr Jacobs Rd, H 15 Mar; last T Rush MONR 22 May.
Evening Grosbeak: max 10 BB-WS 17 Apr; last HB 17 May (AGu).
Pine Grosbeak: last 1 f MP thru 6-8 Mar (mob).
Com. Redpoll: 120 Jacobs Rd, H 9 Mar (AGu); max 275 Jacobs & Redman Rds, H 9 Mar (RCi, RRy); last T Wolcott WAYN 2 May (W&MR).
HOARY REDPOLL (R2): last Jacobs Rd, H thru 2-3 Mar (AGu, 9 oth obs).
Pine Siskin: max 25 BB-HW 9 May (DBro, *et al.*).
Am. Goldfinch: max 400 BB-HW 9 May (DBro, *et al.*), good count.
Lapland Longspur: max 42 H 9 Apr (AGu); last NMWMA (CR) 25 May (JMcG, LS).

Snow Bunting: max 215 T Groveland LIVI 1 Mar (J&KGo); max 215 Jacobs Rd, H 5 Mar (KGr); last BB-HW 20 Mar.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr T Mendon MONR 27 Mar.

American Tree Sparrow: last Lucien Morin P, Penfield 5 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Jacobs Rd, H 2-4 May (AGu, CGu); Chimney Bluffs WAYN 3 May (MG); HB 5 May (AGu); 1-2 Cook Rd, H 11, 26-30 May (AGu, 20+ oth obs).

Field Sparrow: arr 2 Honeoye MONR & Bear Creek WAYN 30 Mar; max 23 Caledonia bird survey 2 May (MW).

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Nations Rd IBA LIVI 23 Apr.

Fox Sparrow: arr CIWMA 24 Mar; last Mendon MONRO 6 May (CGo).

Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr Purcell Rd, Canadice ONTA 30 Apr; total b 24 BBB0 10-26 May; last BB-ES & firehouse woods, G 26 May.

Swamp Sparrow: max 35 CIWMA 23 May (MW), survey.

White-throated Sparrow: max 640 SPt 2 May (LK); 180 SPt 3 May (LK); max b 101 BBB0 3 May; total b 252 BBB0 19 Apr-19 May, high number b.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 50 BB-HW 12 May; last 1 b BBB0 29 May, often found into June.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1b BBB0 19 May, heard and seen by sev obs 25-26 May.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R2): 1m T Byron GENE 26Mar (JBeg, ph).

Bobolink: arr MAC 30 Apr; max 350 BB-HW 9 May (DBro, *et al.*).

Eastern Meadowlark: arr BB-HW & MAC 14 Mar; max 24 Nations Rd IBA 5 May (MW), survey.

Orchard Oriole: arr Geneseo LIVI 1 May. Baltimore Oriole: arr 1-3 ind 6 loc 1 May; max 28 HB 17 May (AGu); 2422 lines in eBird May.

Red-winged Blackbird: 5000 BB-HW 28 Mar (DBro, *et al.*); 5000 NMWMA (CR) 7 Apr (DDo); max 8430 Broadway Rd, Wolcott WAYN 18 Apr (LoK); 3044 lines in eBird May.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 260 Broadway Rd, Wolcott WAYN 18 Apr (LoK).

Rusty Blackbird: arr Jacobs Rd, H 14 Mar (AGu); max 335 BB-HW 8 Apr (GL); last MP 18 May (CGo).

Common Grackle: max Broadway Rd, Wolcott WAYN 18 Apr (LoK); 2485 lines in eBird May.

Ovenbird: arr Fawn Ridge, T Bristol ONTA 23 Apr (KKi), early; total b 34 BBBO 2-26 May, high number b.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr LSP 17 Apr.

Northern Waterthrush: arr 1b BBBP 19 Apr; max b 21 BBBO 2 May; total b 70 BBBO 19 Apr-30 May, high number b.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr firehouse woods, G 3, 10 May (GL, KDe); G 4 May (KGr); Clover St, Rochester 5 May (JiM, LM); Clover-Mercy dog-walk 5 May (RN); 1 b BBBO 16 May; Lyons WAYN 17 May (TBa); Whiting Rd Nat PRES, Webster 18 May (LC).

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Church Trail, G & Dalton Rd, Nunda LIVI 2 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: arr DEP 4 May (GL); Rochester 5 May (LM); 1b BBBO 15 May.

“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER: BB-HW 10 May (LBr); MP 11, 21 May (J&AH, CGo); rare.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr HANA 18 Apr (LBer, JaG, RRe), early; total b 64 BBBO 21 Apr, 1-18, 30 May, high number b.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R2): 1-2 NMWMA (AR) 4 May thru (SBI, JMcG, mob), ph, nesting, using nest boxes, also south of road in SENE, Reg 3; T Hunt LIVI 26 May (DBea).

Tennessee Warbler: arr 2 SPt 2 May (LK), early; max 19 Norway Rd ORLE 26 May (RBA Field Trip); total b 13 BBBO 10-26 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr TCEA & Chimney Bluffs WAYN 2 May (MW & JWo); total 29 ind 14 loc 2-23 May, large number; total b 3 BBBO 4, 15, 15 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr Cobbs Hill P 26 Apr; total b 60 BBBO 1-20 May.

Mourning Warbler: total b 17 BBBO 20-31 May.

Kentucky Warbler: Parkview Dr, Penfield 3 May (R&JP, ph), found dead on porch, rare.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr BB-WS 13 Apr (MG), early; max 20 Beatty Pt, G 22 May (PMar); max b 18 BBBO 18 May; total b 99 BBBO 2-30 May, low number b.

Hooded Warbler: arr Cobbs Hill P & West Port Bay WAYN 3 May.

American Redstart: arr 1-2 ind 3 loc 2 May; max 47 HB-W 26 May (AGu, CW); max b 23 BBBO 19 May; total b 165 BBBO 4-31 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr firehouse, G 1 May; last HB-YC 29 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Henrietta MONR 4 May.

Northern Parula: arr BB 14 Apr (PMar), early; max 25 IB-W 11 May (TL), good count; last Wood Rd, Holley ORLE 29 May (DBem), late.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Holy Sepulchre Cemetery 2 May (AGa), early; max b 45 BBBO 26 May; total b 270 BBBO 10-31 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Penfield 7 May; last HB-YC 29 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr NMWMA (AR) 23 Apr (LC-B, SB, early; max 100 BB-WS 10 May (BHew); max b 56 BBBO 10 May; total b 162 BBBO 2-31 May; 539 lines in eBird May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr SPt 2 May; max b 17 BBBO 10 May; total b 59 BBBO 4-30 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr N Pnds P, Webster 10 May; total b 16 BBBBO 10-30 May, low.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Geneseo LIVI 1 May; total b 71 M (BBBO) 2-26 May.

Palm Warbler: arr BB-WS 13 Apr (MG), early; max 40 BB-HW 10 May (DBro, et al.); max 40 BB-WS 10 May (BHew); max 40 IB-W 11 May (TL); max b 91 BBBBO 10 May; total b 175 BBBBO 30 Apr-19 May; last BBB-WS 26 May.

Pine Warbler: arr T Pittsford MONR 2 Apr (LWa), early.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1-2 Caledonia Fish Hatchery 9-23 Mar, overwintering, typical site; arr H 8 Apr; 43 b BBBBO 30 Apr; max 500 firehouse woods, G 4 May (JaG, RRe); 300 HB-YC 4 May (AGu); max b 74 B 10 May; total b 35 BBBBO 13, 29-30 Apr-2-19 May, high number b; 1249 lines in eBird May.

Yellow-throated Warbler (R2): NMWMA (VDS) 16 May (W&MR); HB 18 May (AGu).

Prairie Warbler: arr Geneseo LIVI 1 May (JSt); total 14 ind 11 loc 1-27 May, high number, relatively rare in Reg.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Broadway Rd, Wolcott WAYN 23 Apr (LoK), early.

Canada Warbler: arr Canadice L Trail-S 9 May; total b 48 BBBBO 10-30 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr TCEA 7 May (TBo), early; max b 15 BBBBO 27 May; total b 97 BBBBO 11-31 May.

SUMMER TANAGER (R2): 1 imm m Lake Rd, Webster 11-14 May (PMab, mob), coming to feeder, many ph.

Northern Cardinal: 3126 lines in eBird May.

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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At Ithaca, March was cooler and drier than normal. The average daily low temperature was 18.4°F, 4.5° below normal. The average high was 39.7°, 2.3° below normal. Total precipitation was 1.44", 1.20" less than normal. Total snowfall was 5.7", 6.0" less than normal. Maximum snow depth of 5.0" accumulated early in the month. Warm fronts passed through the Region on 2, 9, 14, 20, 28, and 31 March.

April temperature was normal, but the month was a little wetter than normal. The average high temperature was 56.1°, 0.6° above normal, and the low was 33.5°, 0.4° below normal. Total precipitation was 3.75", 0.46" more than normal. Total snowfall was only 0.1", 3.3" less than normal. Warm fronts passed through 3, 7, 13, 18, 24, and 27 April.

May was cooler and wetter than normal. Average high temperature was 64.9°, 2.5° cooler than normal, although average low temperature at 44.8° was 1.3° warmer than normal. Total precipitation was 4.85", 1.66" more than normal. Warm fronts passed through 2, 7, 10, 16, 20, 23, and 26 May.

Species of ducks that normally leave the Region for the winter—Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal—all returned a few days earlier than their respective averages. Observers recorded spring high counts for many waterfowl species: Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Long-tailed Duck. Two Greater Scaup, three Surf Scoters, and a Common Goldeneye lingered into late May. Ken Reichman photographed a flock of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** in Steuben County. Chris Wood spotted a **Tufted Duck** on Cayuga Lake in early March and many observers observed and photographed one on Canandaigua Lake in mid-March.

Matthew Janson reported a high number of Pied-billed Grebes at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Betty Beckham reported late Red-necked Grebes on Seneca Lake. An Eared Grebe was on Seneca Lake in late May.

Logan Kahle and Tim Lenz found two Whip-poor-wills in the Hawthorn Orchard in Ithaca. Another was at Wells College. Observers reported high counts for Sora, American Coot, and Sandhill Crane.

Arrival dates for shorebird species compared to average arrival dates were well mixed, some earlier and some later. Whimbrel, Red Knot, and Wilson's Phalarope had unusually early arrival dates. Observers turned in high counts for Semipalmated Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, and Greater Yellowlegs. Unusual species were **Black-necked Stilt** in late May,

American Golden-Plover in mid-May, **Ruff** in early May, Stilt Sandpiper in early and mid-May, and Red-necked Phalarope in late May, all at Montezuma NWR.

Observers reported high counts for Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Common Tern. Chris Wood found a Franklin's Gull at the Owasco Lake Inlet in late May. Shyla and Tonya Luna photographed a rare **Least Tern** on Seneca Lake at Lakefront Park in mid-May.

Two counts of 500 Double-crested Cormorants were high counts. One of the counts was at Jetty Woods at the south end of Cayuga Lake in mid-April. The other was farther north on the lake at the Frontenac Park Marina in mid-May.

Jay McGowan found an early Least Bittern on 20 April at Montezuma NWR. A Snowy Egret in mid-May and three Glossy Ibises in late May at Montezuma NWR were the most unusual waders of the season.

Black Vultures were scarce in the Region with just four sightings. High counts for Osprey and Bald Eagle came from Montezuma NWR and for Broad-winged Hawk in the Town of Dryden.

Five Eastern Screech-Owls in Ithaca's Cascadilla Gorge was a spring high count for that species. Seven Hairy Woodpeckers in the Town of Caroline was also a high count. Two Peregrine Falcons at Cornell University and at Montezuma NWR also constituted high counts. A Peregrine at Taughannock Falls on 24 May was a late report.

Chris Wood observed a record early Least Flycatcher at Dryden Lake on 19 April. Observers reported high counts for Olive-sided Flycatcher, Northern Shrike, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and Barn Swallow.

Lynn Braband heard a Sedge Wren sing at a site in the Town of Phelps in early May. A high count of Marsh Wrens came from Montezuma NWR at the end of May. High counts for Brown Thrasher came from the Hanley Biological Preserve and from Sampson State Park. A high count for House Sparrows came from the Finger Lakes National Forest.

Several winter finch species lingered into the season: Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll, and Pine Siskin. One Evening Grosbeak was in Freeville on the late date of 18 May. The lone Hoary Redpoll was also in Freeville on 10 March. A high count of Purple Finches came from the Town of Dryden in early May.

Observers reported high counts for Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Eastern Towhee. Jay McGowan photographed a Nelson's Sparrow at the Cornell Research Ponds.

Warbler arrival dates were generally within a few days of average. A Prothonotary Warbler arrived early at the unusual location of Myers Point on 3 May and a Prairie Warbler arrived early on 21 April at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. The only high count was for Bay-breasted Warbler. There were seven reports of Golden-winged Warbler at five locations. Yellow-throated Warblers were reported from five locations.

Wendy Fuller photographed a **Summer Tanager** in her yard in the Town of Ulysses. Many observers were able to see a Dickcissel in the City of Ithaca in mid-May.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CP – City Pier, ONTA; **CLSP** – Cayuga L SP; **CU** – Cornell University; **CygL** – Cayuga L; **FLNF** – Finger Lakes National Forest, SENE; **Fv** – Freeville; **HP** – Harris P, CAYU; **Ith** – Ithaca; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; **LPO** – Lakefront P, ONTA; **LPS** – Lakefront P, SENE; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **OLI** – Owasco L In, CAYU; **OP** – Ontario Pathways, ONTA; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SSP** – Sampson SP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCan** – T Canandaigua, ONTA; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TSF** – T Seneca Falls, SENE; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 8 T West Union STEU 19 May (KRe, ph).

Ross's Goose: last MNWR 1 Apr.

Greater White-fronted Goose: max 22 CP 3 Mar (ID), high; last 2 Montezuma Heritage P CAYU 2 Apr.

Cackling Goose: max 70 SW 13 Mar (JMcG), high; last Risser Road Swamp ONTA 26 Mar; StP 26 Mar.

Canada Goose: max 150,000 SW 13 May (TH), high.

Mute Swan: max 15 CP 3 Mar (ID), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 110 MNWR 20 Apr (JMcG), high.

Northern Shoveler: arr 2 SLSP 11 Mar; max 3000 MNWR 13 Apr (JMcG, LSa), high.

Gadwall: max 700 MNWR 20 Apr (JMcG), high.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr 2 CygL, TSF 16 Mar; MNWR 16 Mar; last MNWR 5 May.

American Wigeon: max 2000 CygL, TSF 17 Mar (PRo, KRo), high.

Am. Wigeon x Mallard: CygL, TSF 16 Mar (JMcG, ph).

Green-winged Teal: max 3000 MNWR 4 May (SBI, JMcG), high.

Canvasback: max 10,000 CygL, TSF 16 Mar (JMcG, KMcGo), high.

Redhead: max 30,000 CygL, TSF 16 Mar (TLe, BW), high.

Ring-necked Duck: max 9000 CygL, TSF 16 Mar (JMcG, KMcGo), high.

Tufted Duck (R3): ESP 5-6 Mar (CWol); Canandaigua L ONTA 15 Mar (mob, ph).

Greater Scaup: last 2 LPO 22 May (DDa), late.

Lesser Scaup: max 4000 CygL, TSF 17 Mar (PRo, KRo), high.

Surf Scoter: arr SSP 8 Mar; max 5 MyPt 11 Apr; last 3 LPS 22 May (LK), late.

White-winged Scoter: max 27 Seneca L, T Lodi SENE 14 Mar; last 15 MyPt 17 May.

Long-tailed Duck: max 72 SLSP 16 May (TLe, JMcG), high; last 11 LPS 22 May.

Common Goldeneye: max 235 Aurora Bay Boathouse CAYU 10 Oct; 235 HP 16 Mar; last SLSP 30 May (BB!), late.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 50 MNWR 8 Apr (Matthew Janson), high.

Red-necked Grebe: max 8 LPO 25 Apr; 8 Seneca L, T Varick SENE 6 May; last 2 SLSP 30 May (BB!), late.

Eared Grebe: LPS 21 May (mob!), late.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 17 May; max 3 TErf 24 May.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr 2 SSP 6 May (LK, TLe), late and high; HO 9 May; Wells College TOMP 14 May.

RAILS-LARIDS

Sora: max 3 MNWR 5 May (MH); 3 MNWR 11 May (DL, JMcG), high.
American Coot: max 1200 MNWR 13 Apr (JMcG, LSa), high.
Sandhill Crane: max 20 MNWR 31 Mar (CP), high.
BLACK-NECKED STILT: MNWR 22-25 May (mob, ph).
American Golden-Plover: TCan 17 May; MNWR 26-27 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr & max 4 Lott Farm SENE 18 Apr.
Whimbrel: arr 2 MNWR 19 May (MMi, ph), early; max 34 LPO 23 May; last MNWR 28 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr MNWR 13 May; max 24 CP 26 May.
Red Knot: arr & max 31 Finger Lakes Welcome Center ONTA 21 May (PS, ph), early & high; 1-7 MNWR 24-29 May (mob); LPO 26 May.
RUFF: MNWR 4 May (SBi, JMcG!, ph).
Stilt Sandpiper: MNWR 4 May; MNWR 13 May.
Sanderling: max 10 CP 26 May.
Dunlin: arr 7 MNWR 4 Apr; max 800 MNWR 22 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr MNWR 11 May; max 7 MNWR 31 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 30 MNWR 4 May; last 2 TCan 22 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 1470 MNWR 31 May (CWo), high.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 13 May; max 4 CP 20 May; 4 TCan 23 May; 4 CP 26 May.
American Woodcock: max 25 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 17 Ap (LK), high.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 400 MNWR 4 May (SBi, JMcG), high.
Willet: 41 LPO 30 Apr (TLu!, ph), high.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 200 MNWR 4 May (SBi, JMcG), high.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr MNWR 3 May (DDa), early; last MNWR 27 May.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr MNWR 30 May, late; last MNWR 31 May (mob), late.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr StP 16 Mar; max 105 Aurora Bay CAYU 16 Apr.
Franklin's Gull: OLI 29 May.
Iceland Gull: max 5 ESP 5 Mar; last 4 StP 27 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 24 StP 14 Mar (JMcG, LSa), high; last Paines Creek mouth CAYU 11 May.

Herring X Lesser Black-backed Gull: StP

14-19 Mar.
Glaucous Gull: max 3 ESP 9 Mar (JMcG, LSa); 3 StP 12 Mar (TLe); 3 StP 19 Mar (PRO), high; last HP 24 Apr.
Herring X Glaucous Gull: Ith 2-19 Mar.
Herring X Great Black-backed Gull: StP 6 Mar.
LEAST TERN (R3): LPS 19 May (SL, TLu, ph).
Common Tern: max 82 OLI 31 May (CWo), high.
Forster's Tern: arr StP 14 Apr; max 8 CLSP 27 Apr.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: max 4 CLSP 20 Apr; last Canandaigua L, TCan 23 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 500 Jetty Woods TOMP 17 Apt (TLe); 500 Frontenac P Marina CAYU 11 May (DL, JMcG), high.
Least Bittern: arr MNWR 20 Apr (JMcG), early.
Great Blue Heron: max 161 MNWR 30 May (BB), high.
Great Egret: arr SW 31 Mar; max 28 MNWR 4 May (DB, JT, STor), high.
Snowy Egret: MNWR 11-13 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Allan H Treman State Marine P 11 Apr; max 6 MNWR 25 May.
Glossy Ibis: 3 MNWR 27 May.
Black Vulture: arr & max 5 W Elmira 17 Mar; last CU 8 May.
Osprey: max 26 MNWR 6 Apr (LFr), high.
Golden Eagle: arr Myers Pt TOMP 10 Mar; max 2 CU 11 Mar; 2 Palmer Woods TOMP 13 Mar; last T Erin CHEM 19 Apr.
Bald Eagle: max 50 MNWR 22 May (JMcG), high.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr TVE 13 Apr; max 62 TDry 21 Apr (JMcG, LSa), high.
Rough-legged Hawk: last FLNF 13 Apr.
Eastern Screech-Owl: max 5 Cascadilla Gorge Trail TOMP 11 May (RK, KV), high.
Snowy Owl: max 3 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 16 Mar; last Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 23 Mar.
Long-eared Owl: TCar 12 Mar; TDry 11 May.
Short-eared Owl: max 3 FLNF 17 Mar; last 3 T Phelps ONTA 20 Mar, early.
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr Ith 3 May; max 2 T Hector SCHU 9 May; 2 OP 17 May.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 7 TCar 21 Apr (SKr), high.

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 CU 13 Mar (KV); 2 MNWR 20 Mar (AMi), high; last Taughannock Falls SP 24 May (PD), late.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 2 TDry 20 May (JF), high.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr CU 19 May; max 2 Northeast Ith 25 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Mark Smith Pd SCHU 18 May.

Northern Shrike: max 2 T Seneca ONTA 25 Mar (NJ), high; last T Tyre SENE 10 Apr (SG), late.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Louis Agassiz Fuertes Bird Sanctuary TOMP 9 May; HO 9 May; Fall Creek TOMP 9 May.

Fish Crow: max 50 Ith 17 Mar (ADo), high.

Purple Martin: max 350 Aurora Bay CAYU 24 Apr (EHe), high.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 50 MyPt 19 Apr (LCh, PRO, STon); 50 Ladoga Pt TOMP 20 Apr (KK, BMcG); 50 Beebe L TOMP 14 May (KE, VV), high.

Barn Swallow: max 700 MNWR 13 May (LK), high.

Sedge Wren: T Phelps ONTA 9 May.

Marsh Wren: max 47 MNWR 31 May (CWo), high.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Monkey Run TOMP 17 May; max 2 T Ith TOMP 28 May.

Brown Thrasher: max 8 Hanley Biological Field Preserve SENE 2 May (JN); 8 SSP 4 May (BW), high.

Cedar Waxwing: max 70 Palmer Woods TOMP 11 Marl 70 Louis Agassiz Fuertes Bird Sanctuary TOMP 24 Apr, low.

House Sparrow: max 50 FLNF 14 Mar (LK), high.

American Pipit: arr Ith Tompkins Airport TOMP 14 Mar; max 30 TEf 26 Mar.

Evening Grosbeak: max 75 TCar 14 Mar; last Fv 18 May, late.

Purple Finch: max 35 TVE 24 April (JCor); 35 TDry 4 May (LCh, PRO), high.

Common Redpoll: max 150 Mt Pleasant TOMP 31 Mar; last TDry 20 Apr.

Hoary Redpoll: Fv 10 Mar.

Pine Siskin: max 45 Fv 10 Mar.

Lapland Longspur: max 28 Mt Pleasant TOMP 24 Mar; last MNWR 17 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 200 T Veteran CHEM 3 Mar; last 20 King Ferry Winery CAYU 16 Mar; 2 HP 16 Mar.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

American Tree Sparrow: max 26 T Bradford STEU 1 Mar; last MNWR 27 Apr.

Field Sparrow: arr LPBP 24 Mar; max 20 SSP 4 May (BW), high.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr T Ovid SENE 28 Apr; max 2 T Ledyard CAYU 4 May.

Nelson's Sparrow: Cornell Research Pds TOMP 31 Mar (JMcG, ph).

Fox Sparrow: arr Bluegrass Lane Natural Area TOMP 16 Mar; 4 TCar 16 Mar; 3 Boggy Bottom TOMP 16 Mar; 2 Monkey Run 16 Mar; Factory St Pd CAYU 16 Mar; T Catlin CHEM 16 Mar; TDry 16 Mar; TEf 16 Mar; max 13 Hammond Hill TOMP 1 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 2 Ith Beer Company TOMP 8 May; 2 HO 16 May; 2 MNWR 17 May; last MNWR 25 May.

Swamp Sparrow: max 70 MNWR 20 Apr (JMcG), high.

White-throated Sparrow: max 50 T Farmington ONTA 4 May (JP); 50 Edwards L Cliff Preserve TOMP 5 May (BW), high.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 15 Soaring Eagles Golf Course CHEM 12 May; last OP 24 May.

Eastern Towhee: max 55 SSP 4 May (BW), high.

Orchard Oriole: arr TCan 1 May; max 6 MyPt 17 May; 6 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 20 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 20 Ith 18 May (DN), high.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 Caswell Rd Grassland TOMP 13 Mar; max 100 SW 8-13 Apr.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr LPBP 11 May; max 3 Newtown Battlefield SP 23 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Hi Tor WMA YATE 9 Apr; max 4 Cayuta Creek SCHU 5 May.

Northern Waterthrush: arr SW 23 Apr; 5 Cayuta Inlet SCHU 4 May; 5 Ridgeway Road Rail Trail TOMP 16 May; 5 OLI 23 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: Sixteen Falls Creek SENE 4 May; Ith City Cemetery TOMP 4 May; T Danby TOMP 4 May; LPBP 4 May; SW 8 May; 2 LPBP 11 May; SW 11 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 30 Apr; max 7 LPBP 11 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: TEf 3 May; SW 6 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr MyPt 3 May (BMcG!), early; max MNWR 10-27 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr MNWR 4 May; LPBP 4 May; last CLSP 18 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr Salo Drive Conservation Area TOMP 2 May; max 5 Keuka L SP 15 May; 5 T Ulysses TOMP 23 May; 5 T Danby TOMP 26 May.
Cape May Warbler: max 12 SW 26 May; last MNWR 27 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr MNWR 4 May; Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 4 May; max 4 MNWR 19 May; 4 MNWR 22 May.
Northern Parula: max 8 TVE 8 May; 8 Risser Road Swamp ONTA 10 May; last MNWR 23 May; FLNF 23 May; TCar 23 May; Dryden L 23 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 50 OP 19 May (KG), high; last Pine City 25 May; Bluegrass Lane Natural Area 25 May.
Palm Warbler: max 8 MNWR 6 May; 8 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 7 May; 8 T Middlesex YATE 8 May; 8 MNWR 13 May; last SLSP 22 May; MNWR 22 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr StP 14 Mar (BMcG), early.
Yellow-throated Warbler: Willard T P SENE 21 Apr; MNWR 23-25 Apr; T Ovid SENE 5 May; SLSP 15-16 May; LPO 17 May.
Prairie Warbler: arr LPBP 21 Apr (SB!), early; max 10 Arnot Forest TOMP 25 May.
SUMMER TANAGER (R3): T Ulysses TOMP 9 May (WF!, ph).
Dickcissel: Ith 11 May.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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There were no archived weather data for the month of March. There was a high of 75° on 19 April and a low of 19° on 2 April. This was 0.1° below average. April totaled 5.88" of precipitation, 2.88" above average. May had a high temperature of 86° on 26 May and a low of 37° on 9 May, 2.6° above average. There was 4.81" of precipitation, 1.20" above average.

There were some nice records of waterfowl during the spring period. A Ross's Goose was found in Norwich on 24 March by Logan Kahle and Augie Kramer. Cackling Geese were reported in both Tioga and Delaware Counties, the latter a holdover from the winter period. As many as two Eurasian Wigeon were found at Murphys Pits in Broome County and remained for an extended period. There were several reports of White-winged and Surf Scoters in Broome and Chenango Counties.

A flyover **Sandhill Crane** was seen at Upper Lisle County Park on 3 May by David Nicosia, rare for the Region.

A nicely photographed Glossy Ibis was an excellent find in Tioga County on 7 April by Sandy Covington. Also nicely photographed was a **Mississippi Kite** found by Steven Gorgos on 31 May in Broome County. Neither bird continued after the initial sighting.

The “Winter Finch Irruption” continued into the spring period with Evening Grosbeaks seen in many locations. Common Redpolls lingered as well, though slightly less plentiful. Pine Siskins continued throughout much of the area. There were two reports of Lapland Longspur, one in Chenango County, the other in Cortland.

A Grasshopper Sparrow at Russell Hill Farm in Delaware County was a great find by Whitney Mortimer. The bird of the season was the ongoing **Golden-crowned Sparrow** in Delaware County. Found by Lance Verderame during the winter period, it continued well into the spring, last seen the first week of April (see article on pp. 206-208).

CONTRIBUTORS

Tom Auer, Kyle Bardwell, Diego Blanco, Marty Borko, Susan Boyce, Jodi Brodsky, Adrian Burke, Sean Camillieri (SCa), Jeremy Collison, Sandy Covington (SCo), Ian Davies, Andrew Demma, Renee DePrato, Michael DeWispelaere, Steven Gorgos, Lisa Gorn, Jane Graves, Derek Green, Mary Hall, Louis Hicks, Melissa Hildebrant, Wesley Hochachka, James Hoteling, M. Jordan, Logan Kahle, Augie Kramer, William Kuk, Victor Lamoureux, Tim Lenz, Wes MacKenzie, Jo Anne Mattucci, David McCartt, Kevin McGann (KMCGa), Kevin McGowan (KMCGo), Whitney Mortimer, David Nicosia, Susan Owen, Ruth Pedersen, Pamela Peters, Stacey Rice, Mickey Ryan, Charles Scheim, Rod Spangle, Abbie Tamber, Ferris Tour, Alex Trifunovic, Alison Van Keuren, Lance Verderame, Cheryl Ward (CWa), Dan Watkins, Jonathan Weeks, Glenn Wilson, Chris Wood (CWo), Matthew Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

ALk – Allen L, OTSE; **AqPk** – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BCBC** – Binghamton CBC, BROO; **BPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; **CaHo** – Cannon Hole, T Barton, TIOG; **CanL** – Canadarago L, OTSE; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **ChenL** – Chenango L, T New Berlin, CHEN; **ChRB** – Chenango Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **CoPk** – Confluence P, Owego, TIOG; **CRes** – Cannonsville Res & outflow, DELA; **CVSP** – Chenango Valley SP, T Fenton, BROO; **DelR** – Delaware Ri, Deposit, DELA; **DorP** – Dorchester P, Whitney Pt, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; **FMt** – Franklin Mt., T Davenport, DELA; **GrwP** – Greenwood CP, BROO; **HCP** – Hillcrest Pits, Port Dickenson, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **LPSF** – Long Pd State Forest, CHEN; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NSpM** – N Spencer Marsh, T Spencer, TIOG; **OnCBC** – Oneonta CBC, OTSE/DELA; **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **OwCBC** – Owego CBC, TIOG; **PRes** – Pepacton Res & outflow, DELA; **SCBC** – Sherburne CBC, CHEN (mostly);

PHOTO GALLERY SPRING 2019



Two major rarities at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, *Queens*: Burrowing Owl, 16 May 2019, © Jennifer Kepler; and Sage Thrasher, 17 May 2019, © Corey Finger.



Townsend's Warbler, West Barrier Bar County Park, *Cayuga*, 2 May 2019, © David Wheeler.



Yellow-headed Blackbird, Black Dirt Region, *Orange*, 23 Mar 2019, © Matt Zeitler.



Evening Grosbeak, Northville, *Suffolk*, 23 Apr 2019, © MaryLaura Lamont.



Summer Tanager, Guilderland, *Albany*, 29 Apr 2019, © Christine Bishop.



Magnificent Frigatebird, Hamlin Beach SP, *Monroe*, 27 Apr 2019, © Andrew Guthrie.



Black-necked Stilt, Nickerson Beach, *Nassau*, 21 Apr 2019, © Steve Walter.



White-winged Dove, Central Park, *New York*, 14 Apr 2019, © Peter Post.



Wilson's Plover, Cupsogue County Park, *Suffolk*, 15 May 2019, © Nick Giordano.



A Common Greenshank at Timber Point Golf Course, *Suffolk*, 5-6 May 2019 (here 5 May) was the first for NYS and one of very few records for the eastern USA. See article pp. 202-205; photos © S. S. Mitra.



Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Rexville, *Steuben*, 19 May 2019, © Ken Reichman.



Ruff, Marshlands Conservancy, *Westchester*, 10 May 2019, © Sean Camillieri.



White-faced Ibises in southwestern *Suffolk*, spring 2019: top left Timber Point Golf Course 15 Apr; top right and bottom left Heckscher SP 1 May; bottom right Heckscher SP 13 May; photos © S. S. Mitra.



Red Crossbill, Manorville, *Suffolk*, 15 Apr 2019, © Lisa Nasta.

SkaL – Skaneateles L, (SE), T Scott, CORT; **StPd** – Stupke Pd, T Cortlandville, CORT; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **UL** – Upper Lisle, BROO, **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WRes** – Whitney Pt Res, BROO.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 2800 ULCP (JW); 730 Harold Moore P BROO 14 Mar (JH); 4000 14 Mar Castle Creek (JW); North Sanford Rd BROO 14 Mar (PP); 120 County Highway 8 OTSE 20 Mar (LG); 90 Norwich CHEN 24 Mar (LK).

Ross's Goose: Norwich 24 Mar (LK, AK), *intro*.

Cackling Goose: NSpM 14 Mar (CW); Laurel Bank Rd DELA 16 Mar (LV), *intro*.

Eurasian Wigeon: max 2 Murphys Pits BROO 19 Mar-4 Apr (DL, DN, mob); River Rd Endwell BROO 25 Mar-3 Apr (DN, SR, JH, mob), *intro*.

Canvasback: max 9 River Road Endwell 3-24 Mar (VL, SR, DN, mob); max 9 Murphys Pits 11-25 Mar (DW, VL, WM, mob).

Redhead: max 7 River Rd Endwell (DN, VL, JH, mob); Cincinatus L CHEN 20 Mar (LK, AK).

Surf Scoter: 2 Lisle P 14 Apr (DN, DW); 2 DorP 14 Apr (JW, LK, mob); 2 River Rd Endwell 17 Apr (GW, FT), *intro*.

White-winged Scoter: Lisle P 8 Apr (DN); River Road Endwell 11 Apr (MJ); 20 ULCP 6 May (DN); 26 DorP 6 May (SR), *intro*.

Long-tailed Duck: max 36 Lisle P 3-17 Apr (DN, MDW, DW); max 3 River Rd Endwell 10-31 Mar (DN, SR, VL, mob); 4 CRes 7 Apr (LV); max 4 Whitney Pt BROO 8-10 Apr (DW, DN); Plymouth Res 20-26 Apr (LK, AK, mob); 7 PRes 26 Apr (LV).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 4 ULCP 29 Mar-16 May (DN, JH, ID, mob); 15 UL 8 Apr (DN).

Ruddy Duck: 11 ULCP 26 Apr (DN); 9 DorP 26 Apr (LK).

Horned Grebe: 2 PRes 30 Mar (LV); max 3 River Rd Endwell 30-31 Mar (JC, GW, DN, mob); max 14 UL 31 Mar-1 May (DN, JH, ID, mob); max 4 Lockheed Martin P TIOG 17 Apr (DM, DG).

Red-necked Grebe: Harold Moore P 9 Mar (DN, GW); ULCP 22-24 Apr (DN); 5 DorP 6 May (SR, DN).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: AqPk 20-25 May (DW, VL); Richford TIOG 22 May (DM).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Houck Mountain DELA 25 May (LV); Thornridge Lane CHEN 16 May (AT); AqPk 18-31 May (VL, WK, SO).

Common Nighthawk: max 6 Covered Bridge Road DELA 22-31 May (RS); 3 River Road DELA 27 May (LV); 10 Owego River Walk TIOG 30 May (RD).

RAILS – LARIDS

Virginia Rail: ULCP 5 May (JH); ULCP 21 May (JW); BPd 4 Apr-27 May (VL, JH, DW, mob); Waterman Conservation Education Center 8 May TIOG (DG).

Sora: NSpM 19-29 May (SC); ULCP 30 Apr (DN); max 2 BUNP 30 Apr – 2 May (AB); ULCP 4 May (JH).

American Coot: BPd 30 Mar (DN); max 2 ULCP 4 Apr-3 May (DN, AB, TL); Murphys Pits BROO 30 Apr-3 May (VL, SB).

Sandhill Crane: ULCP 3 May (DN), *intro*.

Semipalmented Plover: max 6 ULCP 19 -27 May (JH, JW, VL, mob); 4 River Rd Endwell 20 May (DN); max 2 NSpM 17-23 May (SCo).

Dunlin: 3 DorP 27 Apr (DN, WK, JW); 2 Smith Kingsman Rd Wetlands CHEN 26 May (MDW); 8 Deposit Farm P DELA 26 May (LV).

Pectoral Sandpiper: BPd 28 May (DW).

Semipalmented Sandpiper: 2 ULCP 24 May (DW); max 7 BPd 26-27 May (JH, WK, DN); Kinney Road TIOG 14 May (DG).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 10 DorP 31 Mar-16 May (ID, AB, DN, mob).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: River Rd Endwell 10 Mar (SR, AB); 5 ULCP 14 Apr (LK, AK); 5 Lisle P 14 Apr (DN, DW).

Caspian Tern: max 5 ULCP 8 Apr-11 May (DN, JH); 2 DorP 6 May (DN, SR).

Common Tern: 10 ULCP 26 Apr (LK, DN); DorP 11 May (JH).

Forster's Tern: ULCP 14-26 Apr (LK, DN, AK); 4 Lisle P 17 Apr (WM).

LOONS – FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: 21 ULCP 6 Apr (DN, AB, JAM); DorP 4 May (DN).

Least Bittern: BUNP 13 May (AB).

Great Egret: ULCP 26 Apr (LK); ULCP 9 May (VL); ULCP 18 May (DN); Long Pd SF 25 May (MD).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: White Church Rd Trail 21 Apr (TA); Killawog Hill Rd Pd 9-16 May (DG, DN).

Glossy Ibis: NSpM 7 Apr (SCo), *intro*.

Black Vulture: Murphys Pits 22 Mar (DN); 2 BPd 2 Apr (DN).

Golden Eagle: Hillcrest Pits BROO 22 Mar (DW); 2 Confluence P TIOG 26 Mar (KH); Glen Aubrey BROO 20 Apr (JH); Downsville DELA 3 Mar (LV, KB, SC); ULCP 6 May (DN).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Hawlyton BROO 31 May (SG), *intro*.

Rough-legged Hawk: Cortland 3 Mar (JG, AVK); Kerrigan Rd BROO 10 Mar (JH); ULCP 16 Mar (JH); Oxford CHEN 13 Mar (MDW); Bainbridge CHEN 21 Mar (MJ); Catskill Turnpike Rd DELA 2 Mar (LV); 2 Catskill Turnpike Rd 9 Mar (LV, AW).

Eastern Screech-owl: Newark Valley TIOG 3 Mar (DG); Arabia DELA 28 Apr (PP); ULCP 4 May (JH); Sherburne CHEN 21-28 Mar (FvM).

Great Horned Owl: NSpM 24 Mar (SCo); AqPk 22 Apr (DW); ULCP 3 May (DN).

Barred Owl: ULCP 17 Mar (MR); 2 AqPK 28 Apr (WK); 2 Mackey Rd Treadwell DELA 7 Mar-25 May (PP); max 2 Moran Rd Oxford CHEN (MDW).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Shepard Rd Waverly TIOG 8 Mar (SCo).

Merlin: ULCP 14 Apr-11 May (DN, LK, JW, mob); DorP 20 Apr (LK, AK, DB).

Peregrine Falcon: ULCP 31 Mar (DN); Cortland Gravel Pits 8 Apr (JC); Cheri A. Lindsey P and R Walk BROO (AB, RD, MH).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: AqPk 18 May (VL, SO).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: ULCP 18 May (DN); Lockheed Martin Pd 31 May (DG).

Northern Shrike: Turnpike Rd DELA 2 Mar (CWo); Home OTSE 9 Mar (AD); Kilroy and Owlville Rd Oxford CHEN 13 Mar (MDW); Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh CHEN 4 Apr (JC).

Philadelphia Vireo: max 3 ULCP 18-22 May (DN, VL); King Street BROO 18 May (DN); Hickories P TIOG 19 May (DG).

Horned Lark: 7 State Route 221 CORT (AVK); 7 Edwards Hill Rd 10 Mar (JH); 150 Arnold Rd BROO 9 Mar (DN); 20 Moran Rd

CHEN 15 Mar (MDW); 13 Deposit Farm Pd 31 Mar (LV).

Purple Martin: ULCP 20 Apr (LK, DB, AK).

Swainson's Thrush: NSpM 11 May (CW); Lake Delaware 12 May (RP); Ellis L 21 May (SB); Johnson City BROO 28 May (DN); Riverfront Vestal BROO 17 May (AB); 2 BUNP 21 May (VL).

American Pipit: 5 Spencer L Tamarac Marsh 14 Mar (CW); max 45 NSpM 14 Mar-16 May (CW, SCo); Pd Barton TIOG 15 May (DM); 2 Hickories P 30 Mar (CW); 2 Kinney Rd Campville 7 May (DG); Binghamton Plaza 1 Apr (JW); Cheri A. Lindsey P 1 Apr (DW); Hillcrest Pits 2 Apr (SB).

Evening Grosbeak: 3 Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway OTSE 2 Mar (CW); max 14 Home Feeders DELA (RP); 9 West River Rd Marathon CORT 7 Mar (CW); Mackey Rd Treadwell 23 Mar (PP); Tuba Hill Rd Richford TIOG 10-16 Apr (DM); max 15 Smith Kingsman Rd CHEN 28 Mar-8 May (MDW), *intro*.

Common Redpoll: max 25 Johnson City BROO 1-31 Mar (JH); 45 Masonville DELA 2 Mar (CW); Moran Rd Oxford CHEN 10-13 Apr (MDW); max 9 Tubbs Hill Rd Richford 21-27 (DM), *intro*.

Lapland Longspur: Hunsicker-Lawrence Rd Sherburne CHEN 8 Mar (MDW); 2 Cornell Lane Harford 3-7 Mar (KMcGo, KMcGa, CWo, JC), *intro*.

Snow Bunting: 63 NSpM 1 Mar (SCo); 100 Arnold Rd BROO 9 Mar (SR); max 350 Cornell Lane Harford CORT 3-7 Mar (KMcGo, KMcGa, JC, CW).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Klecha Farm Coventry CHEN 1-6 Apr (MDW); 2 Knapp Rd Johnson City 5 Apr (DN); BPd 9 Apr (VL); Victory Street Johnson City 19 May (MJ).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Russell Hill Farm DELA 2 Jun (WM), *intro*.

Lincoln's Sparrow: River Rd Downsville 4 May (LV); Death Valley Rd Johnson City 7 May (JH); Moran Rd Oxford 13-14 May.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW: Downsville DELA 1 Mar- 6 Apr (LV, SCA, KB, mob), from winter; *intro*.

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Early March was harsh and lion-like, but conditions moderated by mid-month. In Syracuse the mean temperature was 32.4°F, which is 1.8° lower than the historic average for the month. Total rainfall for March was 1.6", 1.35" below normal. Snowfall in Syracuse was 14.8", 3.2" below normal. The average temperature in April was 48.2°, which is one degree above average. Rainfall for the month was 3.45", which matches the historical average. Only 2.5" of snow fell in Syracuse in April, which is one inch less than normal. May seemed seasonably cool to many of us experiencing it in the field, but according to the data, temps were only slightly below average. Precipitation in Syracuse measured 6.5" for May, which is a significant 3.28" higher than normal. Even higher rain totals were tallied in other places around the Region, particularly in northern areas.

According to most accounts, the bulk of early songbird migration was delayed this spring, presumably due to persistent blustery conditions and unfavorable winds. Blackbirds didn't return to the Region in significant numbers until the middle of March, which is late by recent standards. At the Derby Hill hawk watch, raptor migration didn't begin ramping up until mid-March. Bill Purcell began his Phillip's Point lake watch on the morning of 8 April when wind and warm temperatures began dispersing ice on the west end of Oneida Lake. In May, Neotropical songbird migration happened in fits and starts. Few observers experienced many productive days in the second half of the month. Interestingly, mixed flocks of warblers and vireos were often observed concentrating foraging efforts in Eastern Hemlock trees. One observer thought the birds were gleaning insect larva off hemlock foliage. Several observers reported that foraging flocks often contained Red-breasted Nuthatches, which had vacated the region in fall due to the lack of mast in northern coniferous forests. In May, high rainfall totals in northern and northwestern parts of the Region likely had a negative impact on species breeding in and around marshes, lakes, and rivers.

The Hawk Counter at Derby Hill this season was Karl Bardon, who presided over a record raptor migration at the site. During the three-month season, 101,834 raptors were tallied. This is 32,000 birds higher than any previous season count, the difference mostly coming from a few days with excellent Broad-winged Hawk flights. New high counts for Turkey Vulture (27,981), Bald Eagle (1,252), Broad-winged Hawk (63,639), and Peregrine Falcon (32) were achieved. Additionally, above average tallies were achieved for Osprey, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel

and Merlin. Bardon was also diligent in recording every other bird species migrating over Derby and entering most of it in eBird. His combined total for all families of birds passing over the site was just shy of one million. At Bill Purcell's Phillip's Point Oneida Lake watch, waterfowl and seabird migration was often slow. However, there were some mornings when the conditions were just right. Highlights included 195 White-winged Scoters that passed by on 8 May and 972 that flew by on 17 May. A good diversity of species on the former day included a **Little Gull**.

For the most part spring waterfowl migration was unremarkable, but there were some good tallies in expected locations. The biggest movement of Snow Geese occurred in the third week of March, with 75,243 flying over Derby Hill on the 21st and an excellent total of 308,963 for the season. 50 Northern Shovelers was a good tally on Onondaga Lake on 15 March. Two **Eurasian Wigeons** were found during the period—both in the Cayuga County portion of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. The first one was a male found and photographed at Howland Island on 14 March. The rarity (likely the same bird) traveled widely around the complex and passed between adjacent Regions for over a month. A respectable 1,607 Northern Pintails were counted at Howland Island on 30 March. In late March through early April, *aythya* species were found in reasonably good numbers in expected locations. An adult male **King Eider** continued from winter and a **Harlequin Duck** was seen, both at Oswego Harbor in the last days of March. Neither lingered into April. All three scoter species were found this period, although only White-winged Scoter was observed in significant numbers. An adult male **Barrow's Goldeneye** was found on Onondaga Lake on 2 March by Dennis Anderson. It was seen there for nearly two weeks. Perhaps the same individual or a second male was observed on Oneida Lake on 24 March. A curious-looking Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser hybrid originally found by Matthew Brown during the previous period remained at Port Ontario until 4 March.

The number of migrant grebes in the Region wasn't particularly impressive this spring. However, a maximum count of 23 Red-necked Grebes was tallied on Oneida Lake on 7 April. Utica's male Peregrine Falcon again displayed a penchant for bringing cuckoos to the nest. He caught the first one on 9 May, only one day after the Black-billed Cuckoo's arrival date in the Region. By the end of May at least 11 cuckoos of both resident species were ultimately seen brought to the nest. On the evening of 23 May, Chris Spagnoli looked into his Pompey yard and saw what he thought were bats flying around but soon realized they were Common Nighthawks. He counted at least eight before an approaching storm dispersed them. A maximum of 50 was counted at the same location on 27 May. Reports of Sora increased this spring. Multiples were found at several locations. On 6 April in Pompey two pairs of Sandhill Cranes were observed in a field performing courtship rituals. According to a credible source, for the first time a pair successfully bred in West Monroe.

The authors are pleased to report that Piping Plovers again nested at Sandy Pond. The single nest (as well as other local resident birds) was closely monitored by a small team of biologists led by Alivia Sheffield of NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, with Zoe Hutchins maintaining a spreadsheet of bird sightings. The female was first to arrive in late April followed by the male bird in early May. The banded pair was observed incubating a clutch of four eggs by 26 May. Tune in to the next edition of this report for more on the recovery of this wonderful bird. In other shorebird news, most of the expected species were found this period although only a few in significant numbers. 21 Black-bellied Plovers passed by Derby Hill on 26 May. Reports of Upland Sandpipers all emanated from the same location in northern Oneida County near the Village of Poland. No Whimbrel were found this period, but 22 Ruddy Turnstones and 384 Dunlin were observed on Oneida Lake at Constantia on 23 May. 13 Short-billed Dowitchers and a notable high count of 45 Solitary Sandpipers were seen at Ditch Bank Road on 14 May. The season's only report of a Wilson's Phalarope also came from Ditch Bank Road. The bird was seen and photographed by several birders on 14-15 May. These same days also produced a very rare for the Region **Long-billed Dowitcher** found by Dennis Anderson at the nearby Gerber Top Soil wet spot.

Gull diversity was lacking this period. Besides the Little Gull mentioned above, the only other rare gull species was a single adult **Laughing Gull** photographed by Matthew Brown at Sandy Pond on 28 April. Black Terns were reported from seven locations around the Region, which is an improvement over recent spring seasons. The high count for the species was five tallied at Onondaga Lake on 6 May. **Forster's Terns** were found at three locations this period, a better than average showing for that rarity. Two were observed in Fulton on 14 May and two at Woodman Pond in Central Madison County on 14-15 May. The occurrence likely represented a first for the latter location. A maximum number of 89 Common Loons migrated by Phillip's Point on 17 April. 64 were counted on Otisco Lake on 20 April. Single **White Pelicans** were observed at Derby Hill (21 April) and on the northern shore of Oneida Lake at Constantia (21-25 May). A very rare to the Region **Brown Pelican** was seen and photographed by an anonymous visiting birder, at Sunset Bay Park on 20 May. The editors of this report were unable to view the photo, but Joseph Brin (a veteran birder and administrator of the Syracuse Rare Bird Alert) was able to vouch for its legitimacy. The report is also bolstered by the existence of concurrent eBird records of a Brown Pelican frequenting locations on the western end of Lake Ontario. This is the first spring record for Region 5 and the fifth overall. Per Marge Rusk's records, a report exists from the 1920s! Both expected species of bittern were encountered more frequently than usual this period. Reports of American Bittern came from more than a dozen locations and reports of Least Bittern came from nine sites. David Wheeler found one deceased on the beach at Sandy Pond. There were only two reports of Black-crowned Night-Herons this period, one from Fair Haven on 24 May and the other from Sandy Pond two days later.

A total of two Black Vultures flew over Derby Hill during the season, which is not considered unusual in the modern era. The species was also observed in Jamesville (19-20 March), Gray (23 May), and Frankfort (25 May). According to the Derby Hill hawk counter, 8 April would likely have been a record Turkey Vulture flight, if not for a strong northwest wind that pushed kettles containing at least a thousand TVs out of range. As mentioned above, several raptor species migrated over Derby Hill in record numbers this season. It was a fantastic season for Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon. Above average numbers were tallied for a few other species as well, but some raptors didn't fare as well, and their totals were near or below the ten-year average for the site. A season total of 2,769 Red-tailed Hawks is significantly below average. 111 Rough-legged Hawks was also below average but with Rough-legs, steeper year-to-year variations are expected. Single Snowy Owls were encountered in Bridgeport, Syracuse, Liverpool, and Clay. The last one of the season was found at Sunset Bay Park on Lake Ontario on 3 May. The season's only Short-eared Owl was observed at the Bishop Road Hawk Watch site on 15 March. There were reports of single Northern Saw-Whet Owls from five locations. Unfortunately, the 20 March report from Kirkland involved a road-killed individual. As is typical, most Red-headed Woodpecker reports came from the Lake Ontario Shoreline and near Oneida Lake. A single report of a Black-backed Woodpecker came from Old Forge in the Adirondacks on 30 May. Syracuse's resident pair of Peregrine Falcons continue to hold territory in downtown, but they were not confirmed breeding for the third consecutive year. Four eggs were laid in the Utica nest between 29 March and 5 April. All hatched between 6-9 May. Wildlife Photographer, Tom Durr, discovered a new Peregrine nest site in a quarry outside of Cazenovia. It's likely that more Peregrine nests will be discovered in the Region as the species' population continues its recovery and as nest sites outside of "traditional" downtown areas are adopted.

Few Olive-sided Flycatchers traversed the Region during migration. On 23 May, Acadian Flycatcher arrived on the species' only reliable breeding site at Whiskey Hollow. Reports of Philadelphia Vireos came from 18 locations around the Region. Large numbers of Blue Jays migrated along the shore of Lake Ontario this season, and a high count of 9,014 was observed at Derby Hill on 19 May. One Boreal Chickadee visited a feeding station at Eagle Bay in the Adirondacks on 16 May. The species is expected there, but along with other boreal specialties, they are infrequently reported. An appreciable movement of Black-capped Chickadees was most observable along the Lake Ontario shoreline. On 11 April 94 passed by Derby Hill. Although maximum numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were relatively unimpressive, the species was widely encountered well outside traditional breeding areas. As mentioned above, in May, they were commonly seen moving in mixed foraging flocks along with warblers and vireos. At Fair Haven, a Sedge Wren found by Reuben Stoltzfus was seen and photographed by several observers on 2 May. Gregg Dashnau contributed a Carolina Wren, very rare for the Region 5 lakeshore (being found only a few times a decade there).

Given its rarity, Dashnau and David Wheeler embarked in hot pursuit. They wanted better looks to eliminate the similar-looking Bewick's Wren (but ultimately confirmed Carolina). Thrush migration was unremarkable and featured relatively low tallies. American Robin was the exception. Along the Lake Ontario shoreline and the north side of Oneida Lake, March and April saw good flights and 4,270 flew by Derby Hill on 8 April. Evening Grosbeaks continued to visit feeding stations almost exclusively in the Region's highlands until 20 May. Gerry Smith reminded us that up until the early 1990s, the movement of Evening Grosbeaks through the Region would occur in May during the height of Neotropical songbird migration. Only a single Red Crossbill was reported this period. The report came from Boonville in northern Oneida County on 26 March. Like most of the other winter finches, numbers of Pine Siskin were not notable this season. However, in early May, the species was confirmed breeding in the Southern Highlands.

Clay-colored Sparrow arrived at Ditch Bank Road on 28 April. The species was detected at only three other locations. On 18-22 May, a maximum number of three males were singing on their traditional breeding grounds at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland. There was a slight resurgence of Vesper Sparrows in the Region this period. A maximum number of five was counted in Williamstown on 30 April. Reports of the species came in from numerous locations. Grasshopper Sparrows were reported at nine sites. A few observers noted that Fox Sparrows arrived later and remained later than is typical. A maximum count of 17 came from Toad Harbor on 1 April. The last Fox Sparrow reported in the Region was at Sunset Bay Park on the late date of 10 May. There were relatively few reports of migrant Lincoln's Sparrows. Many birders mentioned encountering especially large flocks of White-throated Sparrows—mostly along the Lake Ontario Shoreline. Most notable were the 275 reported at Sunset Bay Park on 3 May and 200 at Utica's Proctor Park on 7 May. 110 Baltimore Orioles migrated over Derby Hill on 17 May. Birders around the Region noted an abnormally high number of Baltimore Orioles frequenting suet feeders and nectar feeders in May. In much of the Region the blossoming of apple trees and other fruit-bearing trees was delayed this season. Since tree blossoms weren't available upon the orioles' arrival, we surmise that they were forced to seek out other resources such as those provided at feeding stations. Interestingly, even after the apple trees did bloom, orioles continued utilizing food provided by human benefactors. As mentioned above, the bulk of spring blackbird migration took place later than it has in recent years. A decent high count of 1,020 Rusty Blackbirds flew by Derby Hill on 26 April. On 7 April, 42,641 Common Grackles were counted over Derby Hill.

Reports of single Golden-winged Warblers came from only four locations, likely migrants rather than breeders, including one at Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse found by Deborah Dohne. Mickey Scilingo located a singing male Prothonotary Warbler at the Peter Scott Swamp on 21 May. In this Region, the species is rarely found outside its traditional breeding area along the Seneca River

around Howland Island. Tennessee Warblers continue to migrate in relatively strong numbers though Wheeler noted very few at Fair Haven. A maximum of 23 was reported from Syracuse on 25 May. Reports of Orange-crowned Warblers came from four locations. Cerulean Warblers have become rare in the Region away from Howland Island, but there was a spattering of reports from some of the species' former breeding grounds near Oneida Lake and Kirkland. A maximum of 11 Bay-breasted Warblers was tallied at Three Rivers WMA on 17 May, an excellent number for an inland site. A notable 2,367 Yellow-rumped Warblers went by Derby Hill on 8 May. On 1 May, Adrienne Whiteley got excellent looks at a male **Yellow-throated Warbler** in a spruce tree in her Syracuse yard. The rarity didn't linger and wasn't relocated.

While birding the West Barrier Bar at Fair Haven on 2 May, David Wheeler found a first-year male **Townsend's Warbler** at eye level associating generally with a Cape May Warbler and two Palms. The bird moved around West Spit but was usually conspicuous even though it never sang. Wheeler noted that it suggested the similarly-plumaged Black-throated Green Warbler much less than he would have expected. He remained at the site all day keeping track of the bird and all those who tried for it were able to see it. No evidence that it might be a hybrid with Hermit Warbler was found and good quality pictures document the sighting. This is (surprisingly) the third time the species has occurred in Region 5 and only the twelfth documented occurrence in New York State. Wheeler searched diligently for the bird the next day, but favorable overnight weather had caused most migrants to leave. There were relatively few reports of Wilson's Warblers this period. Last but not least, Ashley Chiu hosted an adult male **Painted Bunting** at her Syracuse birdfeeder on 21 May. She was able to get some good close photos of this unmistakable species. In keeping with the tradition of rarities this period, that bird too didn't linger, and no one was able to relocate it. The Region's prior spring record for Painted Bunting was in 2015 and there are four records overall.

This season a total of 260 species was reported, which is ten above the recent 10-year average for the Region. There were also four hybrids reported. Highlights of the season included: Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, **Harlequin Duck**, **Piping Plover**, Ruddy Turnstone, **Red Knot**, Wilson's Phalarope, **Little Gull**, **Laughing Gull**, **Forster's Tern**, **Am. White Pelican**, **Brown Pelican**, **Black Vulture**, Snowy Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Prothonotary Warbler, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Townsend's Warbler**, and **Painted Bunting**.

Spring 2019 produced 111,174 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Hummingbird v 4.02. Reports were contributed by 525 people.

CONTRIBUTORS

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DERBY HILL HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	25 Mar	1		2
Turkey Vulture	8 Mar	4,143	8 Apr	27,981
Osprey	27 Mar	70	9 May	595
Golden Eagle	3 Mar	12	27 Mar	68
No. Harrier	10 Mar	50	19 Apr	568
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9 Mar	478	5 May	3,654
Cooper's Hawk	8 Mar	13	15 Mar, 2 Apr, 18 Apr	215
No. Goshawk	15 Mar	2	23 Apr	15
Bald Eagle		136	6 May	1,252
Red-shouldered Hawk	13 Mar	69	2 Apr	427
Broad-winged Hawk	12 Apr	14,862	21 Apr	63,639
Red-tailed Hawk		382	12 Apr	2,759
Rough-legged Hawk		30	14 Mar	111
Am. Kestrel	13 Mar	53	18 Apr	421
Merlin	14 Mar	12	1 May	94
Peregrine Falcon	15 Mar	5	9 May	32
Unidentified				
Total including unidentified:				101,834

ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico;

Dolge – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **Hast** – Hastings; **HI** – Howland I WMA; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **LOS** – Lake Ontario Shoreline; **MNWR** east – Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MW** – McKoons Road Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; **OF** – Old Forge; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **PPt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **PSS** – Peter Scott Swamp, Phoenix; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **Skan** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **V BSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 66030 DH 20 Mar; max 75243 DH 21 Mar; last 3 Port Byron 12 May.

Ross's Goose: 2 DH 22 Mar (KBa); Syr 24 Mar (DD); max 3 Port Byron 30 Mar (DW, ph, mob); DH 7 Apr (KBa).

Greater White-fronted Goose: max 31 GLSP 2 Mar, 25 remain thru 9 Mar (mob); V BSP 16 Mar (MV); only reps.

Brant: 740 PPt 17 May; 480 Const 23 May; max 835 DH 25 May; last 115 DH 31 May.

Cackling Goose: 3 WP 15 Mar; max 12 DH 20 Mar; 4 Jamesville 27 Mar; last DH 28 Mar.

Canada Goose: max 11010 DH 27 Mar.

Snow Goose X Canada Goose (hybrid): GLSP 1-20 Mar (mob).

Mute Swan: max 62 FH 2 Mar; 13 Brew 11 Mar.

Trumpeter Swan: 4 SNC 27 Mar; 5 Port Byron 5 May; max 7 TR 31 May.

Tundra Swan: max 21 Brew 18 Mar; 8 HI 20 Mar; last Brew 24 Mar; relatively few reps.

Wood Duck: max 122 DH 15 Mar, 122 MNWR east 25 Apr; 120 SSSP 23 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 OnonL 16 Mar; max 10 TR 12 Apr; HI 16 Apr; low numbers.

Northern Shoveler: arr 8 OnonL 14 Mar; max 50 OnonL 15 Mar, good number; 25 MNWR east 2 Apr; 20 UM 7 Apr; last 2 Bridgeport 20 May.

Gadwall: 18 Skan 20 Mar; max 38 OnonL 29 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: HI 16-30 Mar (CW, mob); MNWR east 24 Apr.

American Wigeon: max 160 HI 16 Mar; 60 Skan 15 Mar; 68 OnonL 21 Mar.

Mallard: max 650 MNWR east 16 Mar; 500 DB 30 Mar.

American Black Duck: 59 DH 15 Mar; max 125 MNWR east 16 Mar; 60 Brew 30 Mar.

Mallard X American Black Duck (hybrid): OnonL 14 Mar; max 2 HI 16 Mar; only reps.

Northern Pintail: max 1607 HI (BPa) 30 Mar, good number; 221 Port Byron 30 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: 48 DB 23 Mar; 40 OnonL 17 Mar; max 50 DB 3-13 Apr.

Canvasback: 118 OnonL 12 Mar; max 800 Skan 18 Mar, good number.

Redhead: 360 OswH 8 Mar; 640 OnonL 16 Mar; max 3000 Skan 17 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 600 SSSP 16 Mar; 590 HI 16 Mar; 300 Sylvan Beach 31 Mar.

Greater Scaup: 1480 OswH 8 Mar; 1800 FH 26 Mar; 1300 Bridgeport 30 Mar.

Lesser Scaup: 200 OnonL 2-17 Mar; 200 OswH 16 Mar; max 350 Brew 29 Mar.

Greater Scaup/Lesser Scaup: max 3000 OnonL 21 Mar; 1600 PPt 17 Apr.

Aythya species: max 3500 OneiL 9 Apr.

King Eider: max 2 OswH 29 Mar (GP, mob), one remains thru 31 Mar.

Harlequin Duck: OswH 30 Mar (DB, JT, ST), only rep.

Surf Scoter: max 4 OswH 14 Mar; 3 PPt 26 Apr; last 2 PPt 18 May.

White-winged Scoter: max 972 PPt 17 May, good number; last OneiL 27 May.

Black Scoter: max 3 OswH 28 Mar; last PPt 7 May; few reps.

Surf Scoter/Black Scoter: 2 TR 17 May.

Long-tailed Duck: max 1800 OswH 8 Mar; 1040 FH 21 Apr; 377 DH 19 May; last Const 23 May.

Bufflehead: 144 SSSP 23 Mar; max 202 FH 1 Apr; 150 Const 21 Apr; last OnonL 21 May.

Common Goldeneye: max 400 OnonL 1 Mar; 175 OshW 8 Mar; last Belfort, ADK 25 May.

Barrow's Goldeneye: OnonL 2-16 Mar (mob); OneiL 24 Mar (TSc); 8 Mar (KBa); only reps.

Hooded Merganser: max 64 SP 14 Mar; 55 OnonL 21 Mar.

Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser (hybrid): Port Ontario 3-4 Mar (MB, ph).

Common Merganser: max 3500 OnonL 2 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 511 DH 3 Mar; 130 FH 23 Apr

Ruddy Duck: arr OnonL 15 Mar; max 9 OneiL 29 Apr; 7 WP 6 May; low numbers.

Ring-necked Pheasant: singles from 12 locs.

Ruffed Grouse: max 5 SH 13 Apr, 5 SFNS 31 May.

Wild Turkey: max 112 Orwell 1 Mar; 90 Boonville 17 Mar.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 OnonL 16-29 Mar, 4 MNWR east 28 Apr.

Horned Grebe: max 8 OnonL 29-30 Mar; 7 Brew 29 Mar; 7 Hinckley Reservoir 5 May; last 2 Mexico 12 May.

Red-necked Grebe: max 23 OneiL 7 Apr; 10 Hinckley Reservoir 5 May; 13 PPt 7 May; 2 OneiL 27 May, late.

Rock Pigeon: max 125 Tully 2 Mar; 100 Manlius 8 Mar.

Mourning Dove: max 64 Dolge 1 Mar; 51 DH 7 Apr.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Elbridge 17 May; max 2 HI 28 May; singles from 7 other locs.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr GLSP 8 May; max 2 SP 19 May & 2 SH 20 May & 2 HI 28 May.

Common Nighthawk: arr Verona, TR, Port Ontario 18 May; 11 WP 23, 27 May; max 50 SH 27 May (CS); 15 SP 29 May.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr 29 Fairfield 29 Apr; max 2 Camden 18 May; 2 other reps.

Chimney Swift: arr DH 18 Apr; max 35 OnonL 4 May; 25 UM 8 May; 25 DH 9, 18 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Manlius, Marcellus 2 May; max 8 DH 19 May.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: arr TR 13 Apr; 4 TR 19 – 21 Apr; arr TR 13 Apr; max 6 Palermo 18 May; 4 CM 18 May.

Sora: arr MW 17 Apr; 3 Palermo 4 May; max 5 Verona 5 May; 3 CM 18 May; more reps than usual.

Common Gallinule: arr West Monroe 15 Apr; 7 TR 12 May; max 31 HI 19 May.

American Coot: 13 Skan 6-7 Apr; max 50 MNWR 2, 22 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: arr 2 DH 27 Mar; max 14 DH 7 Apr; 7 Noyes Sanctuary 7 Apr; 7 HI 26 May; 3 West Monroe 1-30 May, br, *intro*.

Black-bellied Plover: arr FH 17 May; 14 Const 23 May; max 21 DH 26 May.

American Golden-Plover: DB 25 Apr, only rep.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 2 DB 27 Apr; 16 Port Byron 12 May; max 23 DB 19 May.

PIPING PLOVER (R5): arr SP 21 Apr (MB, ph); max 2 SP 4 May thru, br, see *intro*.

Killdeer: 17 Bridgeport 23 Mar; max 119 DH 30 Mar; 15 HI 26 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr Poland 30 Apr; max 4 Poland 5 May; all reps from same loc.

Whimbrel: no reps.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 5 OneiL, 2 Kirkville 14 May; max 22 Const 23 May.

Red Knot: arr & max 5 Const 23 May; FH 24 May; only reps.

Sanderling: arr 5 SP 15 May; FH 24 May; max 30 OnonL 28 May; only reps.

Dunlin: arr 2 DB 29 Apr; max 384 Const 23 May; 45 OnonL 26 May; 44 DB 26 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr HI, DB 5 May; max 175 DB 20 May; best numbers south of OneiL.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 3 Bridgeport 7 May, 3 SP 28 May; 2 WP 31 May; only reps.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 Remsen 13 Apr; max 8 Remsen 15 Apr; 3 Bridgeport 8 May; singles at 2 other locs.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 6 DB 16 May; max 175 DB 26 May; 88 OnonL 26 May; 75 WP 31 May; relatively good numbers.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr & max 13 DB 14 May; 3 HI 16 May.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Bridgeport 14-15 May (DA, ph, mob), rare in Reg.

American Woodcock: 10 TR 12-22 Apr; 10 Poland 4 May; max 14 OnonL 7 May; good numbers.

Wilson's Snipe: 10 Pennellville 12 Apr; 8 HI 20 Apr; max 17 Phoenix 15 Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr DB, Fabius, OnonL, 20 Apr; 18 OnonL 4 May; max 25 DB 14 May; 12 FH 17 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Bridgeport 31 Mar (TL, AD, ph), early; 3 SNC 8 May; max 45 DB 14 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr DH 12 Apr; max 35 DB 14 May; 15 Verona 18 May.

Greater Yellowlegs/Lesser Yellowlegs: max 26 DB 4 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 3 Port Byron 2 Apr; 23 HI 18 Apr; max 35 DB 25 Apr.

Wilson's Phalarope: DB 14-15 May, only rep.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr Skan, OswH, DH 29 Mar; 83 Skan 12 Apr; max 171 PPt 12 Apr; 75 WP 26 Apr.

LITTLE GULL (R5): PPt 7 May (BP).

LAUGHING GULL (R5): SP 28 Apr (MB, ph).

Ring-billed Gull: max 7594 DH 11 Mar; 3393 Richland 16 Mar.

Herring Gull: max 200 SP 28 Apr; 200 OswH 30 Apr.

Iceland Gull: max 2 Mexico 12 Mar, 2 DB 16 Mar; singles at 4 other locs.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 4 Skan 20 Mar; max 7 DB 28 Apr; 4 OswH 29 – 30 Apr; last FH 30 May.

Glaucous Gull: max 2 SSSP 16 Mar; last SP 15 May; singles at 3 other locs.

Great Black-backed Gull: 42 Syr 2 Mar; max 46 OnonL 12 Mar.

Gull species: 300 DH 14 Mar; max 400 OneiL 8 May.

Caspian Tern: arr Great Swamp Conservancy SP 7 Apr; 300 SP 28 Apr; max 350 OswH 15 May.

Black Tern: arr OneiL 17 Apr; max 5 OnonL 6 May; singles at 5 other locs.

Common Tern: arr OnonL, Otisco Lake 9 Apr; 25 DH 9 May; max 130 Const 25 May.

FORSTER'S TERN (R5): arr SP 28 Apr (MB, ph); max 2 Fulton 14 May (RS), 2 WP 14-15 May (RC, GM, ph); none after 15 May.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: max 3 OswH 30 Mar; 2 Skan 1 Apr; 2 OnonL 4 – 29 May; 2 FH 11 May.

Common Loon: max 89 PPt 17 Apr; 53 DH 8 Apr; 64 Otisco Lake 20 Apr.

Double-crested Cormorant: 813 DH 2 May; 500 OswH 2 May.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R5): DH 21 Apr (KBa, BP); Const 21 – 25 May (mob).

BROWN PELICAN (R5): SBP 20 May (via JB, ph), 4th Reg rec, *intro*.

American Bittern: arr Phoenix 6 Apr; max 4 CM 18 May; 3 SP 25 May; 3 Phoenix 4 May; 3 MNWR east 28 Apr; reps from more than a dozen other locs.

Least Bittern: arr DH 18 Apr; 2 HI 19 May; 2 DeWitt 21 May; singles at 6 other locs.

Great Blue Heron: 38 DH 7 Apr; 37 SNC 10 Apr, nest colony; max 60 Great Swamp Conservancy 4 May, nest colony; 43 CM 18 May; 59 Pennellville 20 May, nesting colony.

Great Egret: arr SNC 8 Apr; 6 Port Ontario 18 May; max 12 HI 26 May; widespread reps.

Green Heron: arr Clay, TR 22 Apr; 7 DH 17 May; max 11 DH 19 May;

Black-crowned Night-Heron: FH 24 May; SP 26 May; only reps.

BLACK VULTURE (R5): Jamesville 19-20 Mar (DD, GD); DH 25 Mar (KBa); DH 25 Apr (DW); Gray 23 May (BLH); Frankfort 25 May (JP).

Turkey Vulture: 2625 DH 3 Apr; max 4143 DH 8 Apr.

Osprey: arr 2 OnoL 27 Mar; 44 DH 3 May; 44 DH 5 May; max 70 DH 9 May;

Golden Eagle: max 12 DH 27 Mar; 10 DH 23 Apr.

Northern Harrier: 49 DH 18 Apr; max 50 DH 19 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 407 DH 1 May; max 478 DH 5 May.

Cooper's Hawk: max 13 DH 2 Apr, 13 DH 18 Apr.

Northern Goshawk: Hawkinsville 26 Mar (DD); 15 DH season, see chart.

Bald Eagle: 121 OnonL 8 Mar; max 136 DH 6 May; 84 DH 20 May.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 36 DH 14 Mar; max 69 DH 2 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Syr 10 Apr; max 14862 DH 21 Apr; 12276 DH 6 May.

Red-tailed Hawk: 198 DH 27 Mar; max 382 DH 12 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 30 DH 14 Mar; 16 DH 15 Mar; last Syr 8 May; low numbers.

Eastern Screech-Owl: singles at 20 locs.

Great Horned Owl: 2 Fabius 1 Mar; 2 West Monroe 3 Apr; 2 Brew 21 Apr; 2 SNC 14 Mar – 18 May; max 3 Canastota 19 May.

Snowy Owl: Bridgeport 3-9 Mar; Syr 3-8 Mar; Liverpool 4 Apr; Clay 7 Apr; last SBP 3 May.

Barred Owl: max 3 GLSP 4 May, 3 TR 18 May; 2 Fulton 9 May; 2 New Haven 22 May; widespread reps.

Long-eared Owl: no reps.

Short-eared Owl: BRH 15 Mar, only rep.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Pulaski 1 Mar; BLNC 5 Mar; Utica 8 Mar; Cazenovia 13 Apr; SFNS 20 Mar, roadkill; only reps.

Belted Kingfisher: max 7 DH 9 Apr; 7 DB 22 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Kirkland 13 May; max 3 SBP 15 May, 3 DH 19 May, 3 FH 22 May; most reps from LOS and near OneiL.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 6 HI 16 Mar; max 11 TR 21 Apr; 6 FH 5 May; 6 TR 31 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6 SBP 7 Apr, 6 SH 13 Apr.
Black-backed Woodpecker: OF 30 May, only rep.
Downy Woodpecker: 7 Port Byron 10 Mar; 7 SNC 27 Mar; 7 Fayetteville 3 Apr; max 9 DH 5 May.
Hairy Woodpecker: 4 Syr 25 Mar; max 5 HI 16 Mar, 5 WP 12 Apr; 4 Dolge 30 Apr.
Northern Flicker: max 179 DH 13 Apr; 127 DH 19 Apr.
Pileated Woodpecker: 3 GLSP 30 Mar; 3 SBP 23 Apr; max 4 MNWR 25 Apr; 3 SNC 9 May.
American Kestrel: 46 DH 12 Apr; max 53 DH 18 Apr;
Merlin: 2 Ohio 21 Apr; 2 Elbridge 23 Apr; max 12 DH 1 May; 11 DH 9 May.
Peregrine Falcon: 3 DH 9 May; max 5 DH 9 May; pair Utica thru, br (4 nestlings); pair Cazenovia, br (at least two nestlings); pair Syr thru, *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 2 DH, SBP 2 May; max 10 DH 19 May, 10 HI 26 May.
Eastern Kingbird: arr Canastota 28 Apr; max 52 DH 10 May, 42 DH 19 May.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr GB 18 – 29 May; Syr 25 May; OF 29-30 May; only reps.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr 2 Rome 8 May; max 12 MNWR east 25 May; 12 Syr 25 May, 12 GLSP 29 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr SBP 18 May; max 2 SP 28 May; reps from 4 other locs.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr 23 May WH, only loc.
Alder Flycatcher: arr Hamilton 15 May; max 8 OF 29 May; 5 SFNS 30 May; 6 TR 31 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr OnonL 6 May; 9 OnonL 29 May; max 15 TR 31 May.
Alder Flycatcher/Willow Flycatcher: arr Ohio 4 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr FH 2 May; max 20 OnonL 6 May; 8 Verona 29 May.
Eastern Phoebe: arr Syr 15 Mar; max 6 SBP 3 Apr, 6 Salisbury 19 Apr, 4 May.
Northern Shrike: max 2 TR 20 Mar; last Oswego 7 Apr (DW, ph); singles from 10 other locs.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr TR 21 Apr; max 6 SBP 18 May; 5 Verona 29 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Forestport 19 Apr; max 7 SFNS 4 May; 6 SH 8 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr VBSP 5 May; max 2 SP 26 May; reps from 16 other locs.
Warbling Vireo: arr Skan 1 May; 14 WP 7 May; max 20 HI 26 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr SFNS 25 Apr, early; max 21 SH 22 May; 16 VBSP 26 May.
Blue Jay: 7223 DH 5 May; 2200 SBP 10 May; max 9014 DH 19 May; large numbers migrate along LOS.
American Crow: 3580 DH 13 Mar; max 7242 DH 14 Mar.
Fish Crow: max 12 Syr 15 Mar, relatively high number; 2 Phoenix 25 Mar-25 May; 2 Belgium 7 Apr.
Common Raven: max 6 DH 18 Mar, 6 Fulton 19 May; 5 Hamilton 31 May.
Horned Lark: max 140 2 Mar; 80 MW 5 Apr; 85 DH 8 Apr; last WH 25 May.
Purple Martin: Otisco Lake 9 Apr; 20 MNWR east 14 Apr; max 30 Const 27 May.
Tree Swallow: arr DH 14 Mar; max 750 Belgium 6 Apr, 750 Phoenix 15 Apr; 400 SSSP 4 May.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr OnonL 9 Apr; max 15 Kirkville 20 Apr, 15 Phoenix 24 Apr; 14 SNC 4 May.
Bank Swallow: arr 4 SNC 19 Apr; 49 DH 9 May; 25 OnonL 11 May; max 130 Phoenix 13 May (GD).
Cliff Swallow: arr 4 Phoenix 15 Apr; 9 Phoenix 24 Apr; max 20 DH 9 May; 10 OneiL 18 May.
Barn Swallow: arr DH 6 Apr; 150 SP 29 Apr; max 291 DH 1 May; 225 OnonL 4 May.
Swallow species: max 668 DH 9 May.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 94 DH 11 Apr; 89 DH 13 Apr; 30 Ohio 14 Apr.
Boreal Chickadee: Eagle Bay, ADK 16 May, only rep.
Tufted Titmouse: 6 Rome 14 Mar; 6 BLNC 29 Apr; max 8 SFNS 18 May.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 8 SNC 11 May; max 10 SFNS 11 May, 10 Scriba 18 May; noticeable movement.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 12 SNC 20 Mar; max 36 DH 9 Apr.
Brown Creeper: 6 SNC 7-18 Apr; max 7 Noyes Sanctuary 18 Apr; 6 SSSP 10 May.
House Wren: arr DH, Const, Rome, Syr 19 Apr; 9 DH 25 Apr; max 10 SFNS 18 May.
Winter Wren: 5 SBP 7 Apr; max 6 SNC 7 Apr, 6 OF 5 May.
Sedge Wren: FH 2 May (RSt, mob, ph), only rep.

Marsh Wren: arr Brew 21 Apr; max 5 Phoenix 15-18 May; 4 TR 21 May; 4 SP 27-29 May.

Carolina Wren: max 3 Syr 18 Mar; 2 Cazenovia 11-16 Mar; 2 Hinckley Reservoir 4 May; FH 2 May (GD, DW), very rare on LOS.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr DH, TR 13 Apr; max 15 MNWR east 25 Apr; 7 DH 25 Apr.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Elbridge 9 Mar; 14 Syr 1 Apr; max 20 SNC 7 Apr; 12 SFNS 10 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Belgium 6 Apr; 42 OneIL 4 May; max 53 DH 6 May; 30 SP 10 May.

Eastern Bluebird: 8 Rome 1 Mar; 7 SBP 1 Apr; max 37 DH 9 May.

Veery: max 18 SBP 3 May; 10 WH 27 May; 8 Verona 29 May; 8 TR 31 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Ohio 8 May; DH 17 May; Fulton 17 May; 12 Cicero 18 May; SFNS 22 May; only 3 other reps.

Swainson's Thrush: arr SP 4 May; 3 SFNS 17-19 May; 4 Fulton 18 May; max 6 SP 26 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr 2 SFNS 4 Apr; max 20 SBP 2-3 May; 6 Happy Valley WMA 22 May.

Wood Thrush: arr Whitesboro 1 May; 6 GLSP 8-27 May; 9 SFNS 18 May; max 24 Cicero 18 May; 18 MNWR 25 May.

American Robin: 3307 DH 30 Mar; 2238 Const 1 Apr; max 4270 DH 8 Apr; notable migration along LOS

Gray Catbird: arr Camillus 25 Mar; 23 Fulton 17 May; max 45 CM 18 May; 19 DH 27 May.

Brown Thrasher: arr Elbridge 31 Mar; 6 TR 21 Apr; max 10 GLSP 8 May; 6 SP 11 May.

Northern Mockingbird: max 3 Syr 27 Mar, 4 May; 2 DeWitt 11 May.

European Starling: 2736 DH 14 Mar; max 3250 DH 30 Mar.

Cedar Waxwing: max 881 DH 19 May; 45 Syr 23 May; 291 DH 25 May.

House Sparrow: max 30 Syr 4 Mar-24 Apr.

American Pipit: arr 3 Skan 15 Mar; 21 Barneveld 7 May; 16 Bridgeport 7 May; max 50 Kirkville 14 May.

Evening Grosbeak: 60 SH 3 Mar; max 63 Dolge 27 Apr; last Dolge 20 May.

House Finch: max 39 DH 14 Mar; 15 Manlius 7 Mar; 16 Jordan 17 Mar.

Purple Finch: 80 DH 19 Apr; max 111 DH 26 Apr; 21 Dolge 4 May.

Common Redpoll: max 235 SH 8 Mar; 56 HI 16 Mar; 105 DH 8 Apr; last 4 Dolge 26 Apr.

Red Crossbill: Boonville 26 Mar, only rep.

Pine Siskin: 35 Pompey 3 May; max 197 DH 8 May; SH 9 May, breeding; 18 Cold Brook 17 May.

American Goldfinch: 68 Dolge 15 Mar; 1839 DH 8 May; max 2063 DH 9 May.

Lapland Longspur: 2 Fabius 2 Mar; last & max 3 Dolge 1 Apr; singles at 2 other locs.

Snow Bunting: max 208 Canastota 2 Mar; 100 Fabius 2 Mar; 100 Cazenovia 8 Mar; last 50 Dolge 1 Apr.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 11 TR 1 May; 7 SFNS 18 May; max 12 GLSP 29 May; 8 GB 29 May.

American Tree Sparrow: max 18 Verona 2 Mar; 14 OnonL 3 Mar; 13 DeWitt 17 Mar; last OswH 2 May.

Chipping Sparrow: max 40 SBP 26 Apr; 15 OswH 4 May; 25 Syr 25 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr DB 28 Apr; SNC 3-5 May; max 3 SFNS 18-22 May; Syr 21-28 May; only locs.

Field Sparrow: arr Elbridge 28 Mar; max 18 TR 21 Apr; 15 GLSP 8 May; 11 TR 31 May.

Vesper Sparrow: arr Hast 31 Mar; 3 DB 20 Apr; max 5 Williamstown 30 Apr; 4 Richland 20 May; relatively good numbers.

Savannah Sparrow: arr Fabius 6 Apr; 8 SP 7 Apr; max 9 Syr 10 Apr; 6 SBP 3 May.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Poland 30 Apr; GLSP 4-5 May; Rome 18 May; SBP 18 May; TR 23 - 31 May; reps from 4 other locs.

Fox Sparrow: max 17 Toad Harbor 1 Apr, good number; 10 Const 1 Apr; 9 Hast 1 Apr; 9 CM 17 Apr; last SBP 10 May (DD, BP), late.

Song Sparrow: 50 OnonL 29 Mar; 75 Oswego 7 Apr; max 250 SBP 8 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr TR 1 May; max 4 SBP 10 May; 3 DH 6 May, 12 May; 3 Oswego 10 May; relatively few reps.

Swamp Sparrow: 15 West Monroe 19 Apr; max 20 Phoenix 4 May; 13 Tully 5 May.

White-throated Sparrow: max 275 SBP 3 May; 200 Proctor Park, Utica 7 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: 35 Syr 3 May; max 80 SBP 10 May; 25 Scriba 10 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 1151 Const 1 Apr (MS); 109 SBP 7 Apr; 200 Ohio 14 Apr.

Bobolink: 34 DH 10 May; 20 Oswego 22 May; max 45 TR 31 May.

Eastern Meadowlark: 13 DH 18 Mar; max 15 DH 20 Mar; 11 BRH 22 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: arr DH 2 May; max 4 GLSP 8-27 May; 3 SP 17-18 May; 2 Verona 18 May; 2 DB 25 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Skan 1 May; 10 WP 7 May; max 110 DH 17 May; 103 DH 19 May; 12 HI 19 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 35409 DH 14 Mar; 3000 SP 15 Mar; 27770 DH 8 Apr.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 200 Mexico 30 Mar; max 1414 DH 2 Apr; 100 TR 6 Apr; 510 DH 8 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Dolge 15 Mar; max 1020 DH 26 Apr; 650 Clay 30 Apr; 997 DH 3 May.

Common Grackle: 24734 DH 27 Mar; max 42641 DH 7 Apr; 34890 DH 8 Apr.

Blackbird species: max 100000 Clay 25 Mar.

Ovenbird: arr SFNS 1 May; max 18 SH 22 May, 18 HV 22 May; 15 BLNC 25 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pompey 13 Apr; max 3 Orwell 19 Apr; 2 Richland 19 Apr; 2 Chittenango 4 May; relatively few reps.

Northern Waterthrush: arr Syr 18 Apr; 6 Brew 4 May; max 10 TR 19 May; 7 HI 26 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Syr 10 May; Oswego 11 May; TR 14 May; SFNS 15 May; only reps.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Erieville, GLSP, SFNS, Brew 4 May; max 6 GB 18 May, 6 MNWR east 25 May; 5 SP 19 – 27 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: New Haven 22 May, only rep.

Golden-winged/Blue-winged Warbler: HI 8 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Jamesville 26 Apr; 6 GLSP 4 May; max 10 SBP 10 May; 5 FH 19 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: PSS 21 May; max 4 HI 26 May, br; Port Byron 27 May; only reps.

Tennessee Warbler: arr 2 Verona 2 May; 10 SFNS 20 May; 11 BLNC 21 May; max 23 Syr 25 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr CM 9 May; Syr 11 May; GB 16-22 May; DH 16 May; only reps.

Nashville Warbler: arr DH 25 Apr; max 4 GLSP 4 May; 4 DH 6 May; max 5 SFNS 11 May, 5 WH 13 May, 5 GB 16 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr Hamilton, SH 15 May; max 5 SH 17, 22 May; 2 WH 16-25 May.

Common Yellowthroat: arr Clay 28 Apr; max 30 CM 18 May; 16 TR 25 May; 14 GLSP 29 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr Marcellus 4 May; 4 SH 17 May; 4 SSSP 19 May; max 5 SNC 22 May, 5 GB 27 May.

American Redstart: BLNC 29 Apr; 20 FH 17 May; max 36 CM 18 May; 25 Fulton 18 May, 25 Scriba 18 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr FH 2 May; 3 Camillus 16 May; max 4 DH 17 May; 3 Syr 18 May;

Cerulean Warbler: arr HI 9 May; 3 PPt 18 May; 2 New Haven 22 May; max 22 HI 25 May.

Northern Parula: arr SBP 2 May; max 6 SFNS 11 May, 6 WH 13 May; 5 Scriba 18 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Brew 3 May; 4 Waterville 17 May; 6 FH 19 May; max 12 TR 24 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr OF 5 May; 4 SFNS 11 May; 3 Brew 17 May; max 11 TR 19 May; 6 Lake Julia 26 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Ohio, OswH, SBP 2 May; 6 Brew 16 May; max 8 SH 27 May; 5 OF 29-31 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr Rome 19 Apr; 37 Brew 4 May; 35 OnonL 6 May; 40 FH 17 May; max 50 Scriba 18 May; 43 CM 18 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Verona 2 May; max 8 SBP 10 May, 8 Syr 17 May, 8 GB 18 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr HI 5 May; max 30 FH 27 May; 7 DH 28 May; 14 Verona 29 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 2 Mexico 28 Apr; 7 SFNS 11 May; max 8 Ohio 12 May, 8 SBP 10 May, 8 Brew 16 May.

Palm Warbler: arr 2 WP 10 Apr; 24 DH 3 May; 22 DH 5 May; 20 SP 5 May; max 28 SBP 10 May.

Pine Warbler: arr Manlius 8 Apr; 5 SNC 18 Apr; 6 Mexico 28 Apr; max 7 SSSP 4 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 Belgium 6 Apr (GD); 1168 DH 3 May (KBa); 150 SSSP 4 May; 80 SP 5 May; max 2367 DH 8 May (KBa).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R5):
Syr 1 May (AW).

Prairie Warbler: arr SBP 2 May; FH 18 May (DW); singles from 5 other locs.

TOWNSEND’S WARBLER: fy m FH 2 May (DW, ph, mob), 3rd Reg rec, *intro*.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr SFNS 26 Apr; max 10 OF 5 May; 8 Eagle Bay 26 May; 7 Lake Julia 26 May.

Canada Warbler: arr Barneveld 6 May; max 3 HV 22 May, 3 HI 26 May, 3 OF 31 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr Tully 5 May; 2 Belgium 18 May; max 6 DH 20 May; SP 28 May; relatively few reps.

Scarlet Tanager: arr OnonL, SBP 2 May; 8 SFNS 11 May; 32 DH 17 May; 26 DH 19 May.

Northern Cardinal: max 18 Clay 13 Mar, 18 Brew 4 May; 16 CM 18 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr SH 24 Apr; Poolville 29 Apr; 10 SBP 3 May; 9 SSSP 13 May; max 14 SP 20 May.

Indigo Bunting: arr Dolge, Cazenovia, Bville, Pompey, Marcellus 3 May; 8 Const 16 May; max 13 DH 19 May; 8 Little Falls 21 May.

PAINTED BUNTING: m Syr 21 May (AC!, ph), 4th Reg rec.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Overall the spring was cool and wet, but weather patterns varied somewhat across the Region. Watertown's mean March temperature of 28.0°F was 2.6° below normal, but temperatures in parts of the Tug Hill and Adirondacks were much colder relative to normal. The 2.08" of precipitation Watertown received was 0.22" shy of normal, but some parts of the St. Lawrence Valley were very wet, with locations near the St. Lawrence River receiving up to 150% of normal precipitation. April's mean temperature of 43.2° was 0.7° below normal, and May's mean temperature of 52.4° was 2.2° below average. April precipitation was very close to average, but May was very wet, as the 5.3" of rain that fell that month was nearly twice normal precipitation.

For the second spring in three years, water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River were extremely high, and shorebird habitat was virtually nonexistent. With one exception, migratory shorebirds were very scarce and mostly seen or heard flying overhead but not using habitat. Given the lack of habitat it was therefore a big surprise when scores of Dunlin and Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA on 26 May, mostly flying around or perching on logs and stumps, as mudflats were nowhere to be found.

Unlike the previous two years, late February and early March saw no large waves of early migrants, and the species that made up these waves arrived this spring on dates closer to long-term averages. For instance the first Killdeer and American Woodcock were documented on 14 and 17 March, respectively, compared to 28 February for both species in 2018. Except for this lack of an early wave, this year's overall spring migration was very similar to last year's: mostly slow until early May when suddenly it seemed like everything came back all at once.

Of the species for which *The Kingbird* compares arrival dates annually, reasonable arrival dates were recorded for 92 species this spring. The mean arrival date for this suite of species was 24 April, five days earlier than the long-term average arrival date going back to 1961, but almost exactly the average date for the previous ten years. Record early arrival dates were tied or set for five species:

Olive-sided Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Eastern Towhee, Northern Waterthrush, and Blackpoll Warbler.

After a couple of disappointing seasons for waterfowl this spring was pretty good, with heavy goose flights during the last half of March. Geese started moving in good numbers on 14 March, and on that date nine **Greater White-fronted Geese** and three **Cackling Geese** were seen among hordes of geese over Fort Drum. Goose numbers peaked on the weekend of 23-24 March, when numerous large Snow Goose and Canada Goose flocks lined long stretches of the St. Lawrence River. Steve Kelling, Chris Wood, and Brian Sullivan happened to visit the area that weekend, picking out **Ross's Geese** at Point Peninsula and Waddington, a Greater White-fronted Goose in Henderson, and Cackling Geese at Point Peninsula, Waddington, and Coles Creek State Park. Another Cackling Goose was in Canton on 31 March for a high seasonal tally of this rare but increasing species.

As is so often the case in Region 6, none of this season's rarities lingered for any length of time and few birders were able to see any of these birds. Rare in Jefferson County, a **Boreal Chickadee** was among an apparently migrating group of Black-capped Chickadees, but could not be relocated later that day. Probably the most cooperative rarity was a **Glossy Ibis** Steve Kelling found at Perch River WMA on 21 April that was still present on 22 April but not seen again. The greatest rarity of the season was a Regional first **Painted Bunting** at a Norwood feeder on 7 May, but this bird was a one-day wonder and unknown to the birding community until photos showed up on eBird the following day. A **Prothonotary Warbler** Jay Sheppard found at Southwick Beach State Park on 20 May and relocated 24 May was in a swamp sandwiched between a construction site and a very busy campground, making for difficult access that appears to have foiled all subsequent efforts to locate this bird. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** I found at Indian Creek Nature Center on 27 May was particularly uncooperative, not even sticking around for several birders who showed up 20 minutes after the initial detection.

The winter's finch and waxwing irruption continued into the spring, with Common Redpoll, Evening Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin persisting at many locations well into May. The four Hoary Redpolls documented in March was one more than were reported all winter. Although Bohemian Waxwings came down this winter they were never common, and the year's highest tally of 70 on 29 April came the day before the season's last report.

For the season I received reports of 232 species, about two species more than average for the previous 10 years but virtually identical to the most recent five-year mean. Probably the biggest disappointment of the season was the almost total lack of shorebirds, which seems like something Region 6 birders should be used to by now but the situation seemed even more dire than usual. The Norwood Painted Bunting was certainly the rarest bird documented this season, but as with all of the spring's rarities, it was unfortunate that more people couldn't see it.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart I, T Massena, STLA; **BPWMA** – Black Pond WMA; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **BRV** – Black River Valley; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CLBS** – Cranberry L Biological Station; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **ED** – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **FL** – Fisher's Landing, T Alexandria; **GLR** – Grand Lakes Reserve, T Redwood; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; **JCSP** – Jacques Cartier SP; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest, T Hammond; **LEWI** – Lewis County; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PRWMA** – Perch River WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **SBS** – Southwick Beach SP; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WEF** – Winona Experimental Forest T Lorraine; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WISP** – Wellesley I SP.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 10000 SLR T Waddington 23 Mar.
Ross's Goose: PtPen 23 Mar (CW, BS, SK); SLT T Waddington 23 Mar (CW, BS, SK).
Greater White-fronted Goose: 9 over FD 15 Mar (JB); T Henderson 24 Mar (CW, BS, SK).
Brant: 6 reports between 11 & 29 May; max 200 over FD 25 May.
Cackling Goose: 3 over FD 15 Mar (JB); PtPen 23 Mar (CW, BS, SK); CCSP 23 Mar (CW, BS, SK); SLR T Waddington 24 Mar (JB); T Canton 31 Mar (JB, BD); more than usual.
Canada Goose: max 35000 SLR Waddington 23 Mar (CW, BS, SK).
Mute Swan: max 116 FL 1 Mar.
Trumpeter Swan: up to 15/day ULLWMA where increasing; up to 5/day PRWMA; T

Hounsfield 31 Mar & FD 20 May only other locations.

Tundra Swan: max 6 FL 15 Mar; last T Lyme & SLR T Waddington 24 Mar.

Wood Duck: arr FL 14 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Watertown airport 26 Mar.

Northern Shoveler: arr ULLWMA 14 Mar.

Gadwall: max 30 PRWMA 6 May.

Eurasian Wigeon: WHWMA 4 May (JB) only report.

American Wigeon: max 90 PRWMA 12 Apr.

Mallard: max 107 T Hounsfield 18 Mar.

American Black Duck: max 165 Ridge Road T Lowville 30 Mar.

Northern Pintail: max 103 Ridge Road T Lowville 30 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: arr ULLWMA 14 Mar; max 82 PRWMA 12 Apr.

Canvasback: 2 FL 1-9 Mar (JB, mob) only report.

Redhead: max 167 FL 12 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 790 LWMA 12 Apr.

Greater Scaup: max 390 JCSP 7 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: max 106 PRWMA 12 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: LWMA 29 Apr (DD) only report.

Long-tailed Duck: max 192 StPt 17 May.

Bufflehead: max 102 StPt 12 Apr.

Common Goldeneye: max 532 FL 3 Mar.

Barrow's Goldeneye: FL 1-14 Mar (JB, mob); BRB 24 Mar (NL); only reports.

Hooded Merganser: max 80 StPt 12 Apr.

Common Merganser: max 440 SLR Ogdensburg 3 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 85 Henderson Bay 12 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr FD 19 Mar.

Horned Grebe: widespread arr 31 Mar; max 5 T Brownville 31 Mar.

Red-necked Grebe: arr T Watertown 31 Mar.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr FD 6 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr T Canton 19 May.

Common Nighthawk: arr CLBS 12 May.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: no reports before FD 6 May; late or arr missed?

Chimney Swift: no reports before 3 May when 75 T Carthage; actual arr certainly missed.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr T Alexandria 4 May.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: arr PRWMA 12 Apr.

Sora: arr T Watertown 30 Apr.

Common Gallinule: arr FD 19 Apr.

American Coot: arr ULLWMA 4 Apr; only other location PRWMA 5 Apr to 16 May.

Sandhill Crane: 2 arr ULLWMA 4 Apr where last seen 28 Apr; max 6 over KC 7 Apr & T Potsdam 21 Apr; last apparent migrant T Fine 26 May.

Black-bellied Plover: 8 arr ULLWMA & 1 PRWMA 27 May; only reports.

Semipalmated Plover: 3 T Canton 11 May only report.

Killdeer: widespread arr 14 Mar.

Upland Sandpiper: arr FD 6 May; different locations FD 11 & 12 May only other locations.

Dunlin: max 70 ULLWMA 26 May where single still present 31 May; 31 AFWMA 26 May only other report.

Least Sandpiper: only 3 reports of singles 11-29 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 85 ULLWMA 26 May; 7 PRWMA 31 May only other report.

American Woodcock: arr CV 17 Mar.

Wilson's Snipe: arr T Dekalb 5 Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr PRWMA 22 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr T Dekalb 8 May; max 4 T Dekalb 9 May; only 2 other reports.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr PtPen 6 Apr.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr T Watertown 1 Apr.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr T Watertown 3 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: CCSP 23 Mar & WHWMA 14 Apr only reports.

Caspian Tern: arr PRWMA 12 Apr.

Black Tern: arr ULLWMA 5 May.

Common Tern: 2 arr very early Massena 2 Apr (NM); next arr ULLWMA 25 Apr.

LOONS-FALCONS

Common Loon: arr WHWMA 30 Mar.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr T Watertown 28 Mar.

American Bittern: arr T Watertown 9 Apr.

Least Bittern: arr ULLWMA 6 May.

Great Blue Heron: arr ULLWMA 2 Mar.

Great Egret: arr T Morristown 7 Apr.

Green Heron: arr PRWMA 3 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Murphy I 14 Apr.

GLOSSY IBIS (R6): PRWMA 21-22 May (SK, BM, AB, photos!).

Osprey: arr T Brownville 31 Mar.

Golden Eagle: 6 reports of 8 ind 3-23 Mar.

Northern Harrier: many reports PtPen throughout Mar; widespread arr 20-25 Mar.

Northern Goshawk: FD 4 Mar & 11 Apr only reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr T Adams & BRV 17 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr FD 18 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: last T Orleans 3 May.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 8 reports of 9 ind more than usual.

Snowy Owl: last T Lyme 23 Mar.

Long-eared Owl: T Leray 16 May (LK) only report.

Short-eared Owl: FD 30 May only report.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: CV 2 Mar (SK) only report.

Belted Kingfisher: arr PRWMA 27 Mar.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr FD 6 May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: increasing away from W JEFF stronghold.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr FD & T Canton 1 Apr.

Northern Flicker: increasing by 2 Apr.

American Kestrel: widespread arr starting 18 Mar.
Merlin: reports from 34 locations as increase continues.
Peregrine Falcon: FL 9 Mar to 13 Apr; T LeRay 22 Mar; T Dekalb 26 Mar only reports away from known nesting areas.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr T Croghan 2 May.
Eastern Kingbird: arr T Watertown 3 May.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr MM 4 May.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr T Lyme & ULLWMA 11 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr CLBS 14 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr CLBS 14 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr T Lyme 11 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr T Croghan & ULLWMA 5 May.
Eastern Phoebe: widespread arr 29 Mar.
Northern Shrike: last T Canton 4 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr CLBS 2 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr T Parishville 21 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr StPt & T Leyden 17 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr T Watertown 3 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr MM 4 May.
Purple Martin: arr LWMA 12 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr T Potsdam 24 Mar.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr PRWMA 7 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr FD 30 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: 100 arr BI 14 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr LWMA 12 Apr.
Boreal Chickadee: FD 8 Mar (JB), rare JEFF.
Tufted Titmouse: gradually increasing St. Lawrence Valley.
House Wren: arr T Potsdam 22 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr LBSF 31 Mar.
Sedge Wren: arr FD 13 May.
Marsh Wren: arr PRWMA 2 May.
Carolina Wren: reports from 7 locations Apr-May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr LBSF 28 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr T Canton 13 Apr.
Eastern Bluebird: apparently increasing 24-30 Mar.
Veery: widespread arr 3 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: FD 22 May only report.
Swainson's Thrush: arr T Croghan 16 May.
Hermit Thrush: very early ind FD 8 Mar; main arr FD & T Croghan 8 Apr.
Wood Thrush: widespread arr 2 May.
Gray Catbird: arr T Potsdam 26 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: arr FD 17 Apr.
Northern Mockingbird: arr FD 17 Apr.
Bohemian Waxwing: max 70 RRT 29 Mar; last T Pinckney 30 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: scarce & local before May but max 109 T Lisbon 3 Mar; gradual increase starting early May; major arr 24-31 May.
American Pipit: arr PtPen 23 Mar.
Evening Grosbeak: last T Stockholm 23 May.
Pine Grosbeak: last T Croghan 20 Mar.
Purple Finch: scarce & local before 20 Apr.
Common Redpoll: last T Parishville 6 May.
Hoary Redpoll: T Potsdam 2 Mar (JB); T Croghan thru 14 Mar (MR); CCSP 21 Mar (BD); PtPen 23 Mar (SK, CW, BS, photos!).
Pine Siskin: widespread in small numbers thru; max 15 T Potsdam 9 May.
Snow Bunting: last T Massena 24 Mar.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: early ind arr T Watertown 20 Mar; next MP 29 Mar; main arr 2 Apr.
American Tree Sparrow: last T Stockholm 3 May.
Chipping Sparrow: arr FD 8 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr FD 9 May.
Field Sparrow: arr KC 30 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr FD 8 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr T Pameilia 9 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr FD 6 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr FD 23 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr T Croghan 18 Mar.
Song Sparrow: arr FD & PtPen 15 Mar.
Lincoln's Sparrow: on terr MM by 4 May.
Swamp Sparrow: 2 presumed winter survivors PRMWA 1 Mar; arr FD & T Watertown 3 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: last T Stockholm 3 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: widespread arr 3 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: ICNC 27 May (JB) only report.
Bobolink: arr PRWMA 3 May.
Eastern Meadowlark: arr CV 17 Mar.
Orchard Oriole: arr T Croghan 11 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr T Croghan 3 May.
Red-winged Blackbird: arr PRWMA 13 Mar.
Brown-headed Cowbird: arr FD & RRT 14 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr T Canton 23 Mar.
Common Grackle: arr T Massena 12 Mar.
Ovenbird: widespread arr 3 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: WEF 17 & 26 May; T Pinckney 31 May; only reports.

Northern Waterthrush: arr FD 19 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr FD 6 May.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr FD 6 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr LBSF 28 Apr.
PROHONOTARY WARBLER (R6): SBSP 20 & 24 May (JS, JB).
Tennessee Warbler: arr FD 7 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: T Fine 9 May only report.
Nashville Warbler: arr T Watertown 3 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr T Pinckney 17 May.
Common Yellowthroat: widespread arr 5 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr WEF 17 May.
American Redstart: arr T Dekalb 5 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr FD 2 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr GLR 11 May.
Northern Parula: arr FD 2 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr FD 7 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr T Croghan & StPt 17 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr RRT & T Watertown 3 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr LWMA 29 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr FD 6 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr WISP 5 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr RRT & T Watertown 3 May.
Palm Warbler: "Western" arr FD 2 May; "Yellow" arr on Adirondack breeding grounds unreported.
Pine Warbler: arr FD & T Watertown 16 Apr.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr BPWMA 12 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr ED 5 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr FD 2 May.
Canada Warbler: arr FD 6 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr FD 7 May.
Scarlet Tanager: arr T Dekalb 5 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr FD 2 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr FD 7 May.
PAINTED BUNTING: at T Norwood feeder 7 May (JM, photos!).

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The clipper system that began in February continued into March with winter storms Scott and Taylor hitting in the first ten days of the month. Bomb cyclones Ulmer and Vaughn only brushed Region 7 in the second half of the month. Even so snowfall totals for the month ranged from only 8" in the Champlain Valley to 26+" in the Adirondacks. Precipitation (liquid equivalent) overall was only 1 to 2 inches in most areas. March temperatures were 1 to 3 degrees colder than normal in the bulk of Region 7 except for the northern portions of Clinton and Franklin Counties where the deviation from normal was -3 to -5 degrees.

The last named winter storm, Wesley, in mid-April was mainly a rain event. Rainfall was heaviest in the southern portions of Hamilton and Essex Counties. Totals diminished to 3 to 4 inches in northern Clinton and Franklin Counties with a narrow band of from 4 to 5 in. in the middle of Region 7. For almost all of Clinton and Franklin Counties temperatures did not deviate from normal by more than a degree either way. Most of Essex and all of Hamilton Counties were 1 to 3 degrees colder than normal.

May was cold and wet everywhere. The driest areas in Region 7, most of Clinton County and the northern third of Franklin County, got 4 to 5 inches of

rain. Rainfall totals increased from north to south in the rest of the Region to as much as 7 to 8 inches in several pockets including the extreme southwest corner of Hamilton County. Average temperatures were well below normal, though there was some disagreement just how great the deviation was. One website claimed it was three degrees below normal while another listed the deviation at six degrees. Anecdotal evidence inclines toward the latter value. Flowering crabapple trees in Clinton County bloomed two weeks later than the recent average.

As noted in the Winter 2018 Report, Lake Champlain froze solid this year for the first time since 2015, leaving only the channel at the Cumberland Head Ferry crossing and the mouth of the Saranac River, warmed by the sewage treatment plant effluent, with any open water. The waterfowl and gulls concentrated in these areas included Tufted Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye and Iceland Gull. As the month warmed the open area increased until at the end of the month the lake was open from Cumberland Head to Port Kent except for the sheltered bays. At the south end of the lake the ice sheet had broken up by the end of the first week of April. Ice out was complete by the middle of the month. The ice at north end of the lake followed suit but with a delay of three or four days.

The Lake Champlain water level began the season at just over 97' and moved downward to its low of 96.3' on 15 March. Then there began a halting, almost stepwise, increase to the official flood stage of 100' on 22 April. Uncharacteristically it stayed above flood stage for the rest of the season, reaching a maximum of 100.9' on 30 April. At this level the prime habitat for migrating shorebirds in Region 7 was underwater. This accounts for the low numbers of individuals and of species reported. The largest single day's count was from the tires of a marina's breakwater, not from one of the usual areas. This is the second year in a row for unusually high lake levels in May.

The Crown Point banding station was opened on 10 May for the 44th consecutive year. Despite the cold wet weather, the station banded 1,089 individuals (fourth highest total) of 69 species and types, easily surpassing the 485 individuals and 54 species and types of 2018. Species not often banded but listed this season included Northern Parula (1), Bay-breasted Warbler (5), Canada Warbler (4) and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (1).

After its simultaneous first ever Region 7 appearance at two widely separated locations in the fall of 2017, **Pink-footed Goose** has become a near regular with sightings in the fall of 2018 and now the spring of 2019 (a seasonal first). **Tufted Duck** continued to be an almost annual visitor to the Champlain Valley. It began an extended stay in the Crown Point area and moved north as the ice cover diminished. It was seen on both sides of Lake Champlain until it was last reported from the Cumberland Head Ferry. **Sandhill Crane** was recorded twice, once from Vermontville and once from Bloomingdale Bog. **Golden Eagle** logged a total of four sightings, at least one in each of the three months. An uncommon spring sighting of **Iceland Gull** for Clinton County was recorded on the open water at the Cumberland Head Ferry in March. Once again there was a significant presence of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**; sightings were listed from

Crown Point to Rouses Point, all between 7 and 20 April. Found (and photographed) for only the third time in Clinton County, **Yellow-headed Blackbird's** discovery and rarity was documented in an article in the local newspaper.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIC – Adirondack Interpretive Center; **AF** – Ausable Forks; **AK** – Akwasasne; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BHT** – Blueberry Hill Trails; **BL** – Bloomingdale Rd; **BR** – Bull Rock Rd; **Cgy** – Chateaugay; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **CHF** – Cumbderland Head Ferry; **ChR** – Chapman Rd; **CMR** – Cemetery Rd; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **DR** – Delano Rd; **DRd** – Dudley Road; **EAW** – Eight Acre Wood; **EC** – Essex Co; **EF** – Essex Ferry; **Es** – Essex; **FB** – Ferd's Bog; **FtC** – Fort Covington Marsh; **GB** – Gilbert Brook Marina; **HS** – Hogback Swamp; **KVe** – Keeseeville; **LAb** – Lake Abanakee; **LC** – Lake Clear; **LCR** – La Chute Ri; **LGO** – Lake George Outlet; **LL** – Long L; **MA** – Malone Airport; **MDT** – Meadow Lake-Debar Meadows Trail; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **New** – Newcomb; **NF** – N. Farm Rd; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OH** – Owls Head; **PAFB** – Old Base Plattsburgh; **PC** – Putts Creek; **PCW** – Putnam Creek Wetland; **PK** – Port Kent; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **PyR** – Pyramid Rd; **RF** – Rogers Farm; **RHR** – Rand Hill Rd; **RRd** – Reynolds Rd; **RW** – Rugar Woods; **SBy** – Stevenson Bay; **SRd** – Sulpher Rd; **VTv** – Vermontville; **WC** – Wild Center; **WF** – Whiteface Mt; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WP** – Westport; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr, 100 LGO 14 Mar (MC).
Greater White-fronted Goose: AP 30 Mar (SC, JS).
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: MR 28 Mar (AB).
Cackling Goose: arr, 3 MR 28 Mar (AB).
Wood Duck: arr, Jay 7 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: no reports

Northern Shoveler: arr, CHF 15 Mar.

Gadwall: arr, 2 SRM 21 Mar (SR).

American Wigeon: arr, 4 CHF 15 Mar (BK).

Northern Pintail: arr, EF 3 Mar (SR).

Green-winged Teal: arr, 3 EF 17 Mar (BMc).

Canvasback: no reports.

Redhead: CHF 28 Mar (AB).
Ring-necked Duck: 115 CP 11 Apr (SR).
TUFTED DUCK (R7): CHF 7 Mar (M&SR); AP 1-7 Apr (mob).
Greater Scaup: 300 CHF 21 Mar (SR).
Lesser Scaup: 14 EF 17 Mar (SR).
Scaup sp.: 400 KB 27 Apr (BK).
Long-tailed Duck: arr, 8 LAb 31 Mar (MM).
Bufflehead: 26 AP 13 Apr (DRg).
Common Goldeneye: 400 CH 15 Mar (BK).
Barrow's Goldeneye: 5 CHF 7 Mar (M&SR).
Hooded Merganser: arr, 2 AP 7 Mar (M&SR).
Common Merganser: 350 SBy 2 May (SR).
Red-breasted Merganser: arr, 5 CHF 7 Mar (M&SR).
Ruddy Duck: 3 CP 2 May (SR).
Ring-necked Pheasant: Es 2 May (SR).
Ruffed Grouse: 3 PS 4 May (BMc).
Wild Turkey: Es 6 May (BMo), CO-NE.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr, LAb 27 Mar (MM).
Horned Grebe: arr, EF 12 Mar (LM); 33 WM 23 Apr (SR).
Red-necked Grebe: arr, CHF 17 Mar (DR).
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr, CP 21 May (SR).
Common Nighthawk: arr, New 11 May (RH).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr, 3 BR 7 May (GCh).
Chimney Swift: arr, 3 MM 7 May (SR).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr, EAW 4 May (GL).

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: arr 8 PCW May (SR).
Sora: FiC 25 May (JSh).
Common Gallinule: arr, CR 22 May (BK).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): arr, 2 LC 9 Apr (ED); 2 BB 17 Apr (SMc).
Black-bellied Plover: no reports.
Semipalmated Plover: arr, 59 GB 22 May (BK).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr, 2 GB 22 May (BK).
Dunlin: arr, 41 GB 22 May (BK).
Least Sandpiper: arr, 11 ChR 27 May (HW).
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr AB 9 May (BK).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr, ChR 27 May (HW).
Killdeer: arr, 3 CP 15 Mar (SR).
Am. Woodcock: arr, 4 DR 27 Mar (SR).
Wilson's Snipe: arr, 2 LC 9 Apr (SMc).
Spotted Sandpiper: arr, PH 23 Apr (SR).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr, TI 4 May (MMr).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr, AK 19 Apr (HW).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr, CP 20 Apr (SR).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr, 2 SRM 10 Apr (SR).
Iceland Gull: CHF 12 Mar (LM), only report.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: AP 7 Apr (GC); PH 20 Apr (SR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 3 KB 10 Apr (SR).
Caspian Tern: 2 PH 7 Apr (SR); 63 PH 20 Apr (SR).
Black Tern: no reports.
Common Tern: arr, 3 PK 23 Apr (SR).

LOONS-FALCONS

Common Loon: arr, LAb 30 Mar (MM).
Double-crested Cormorant: arr, 8 CP 23 Mar (SR); 350 PH 20 Apr (SR).
American Bittern: arr, PtR 31 Mar (EG).
Great Blue Heron: arr, TI 16 Mar (SR).
Great Egret: arr, 2 CR 17 Apr (BK).
Green Heron: arr, 2 Es 7 May (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 FiC 25 May (JSh), only report.
Black Vulture: arr, 2 TI 8 Mar (SR).
Turkey Vulture: arr, Es 13 Mar (SR).
Osprey: arr, WM 3/21 (DR).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): LAb 15 Mar (M&WM); LC 2 Apr (SMc); PV 5 Apr (BMc); PAFB 19 May (MB).
Northern Harrier: arr, EC 18 Mar (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 CMR 20 May (J&PT).
Cooper's Hawk: WP 25 Apr (SR).
Northern Goshawk: 2 MDT 21 Apr (BB).
Bald Eagle: 3 AP 7 Apr (GC).
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr, MM 16 Mar (SR).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr, BB 2 Apr (JS).
Red-tailed Hawk: 2 BB 9 Apt (JS).
Rough-legged Hawk: AP 2 Apr (SR), last.
Eastern Screech Owl: no reports.
Great Horned Owl: CP 18 May (G&MC).
Snowy Owl: MA 2 Mar (TL).
Barred Owl: 3 WC 4 Apr (AV).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: no reports.
Belted Kingfisher: arr, LCR 24 Mar (EG).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 3 AP 13 Apr (BB).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr, Keene 28 Mar (J&PT).
Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 VTV 21 Apr (DRg).
Northern Flicker: 4 PtR 30 Apr (JH).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 BB 2 May (JS).
American Kestrel: arr, WP 19 Mar (SR).
Merlin: 2 CH 26 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 SRM 16 Mar (AB).

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr, MM 7 May (SR).
Eastern Kingbird: arr, SRd 4 May (JSh).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr, FB 20 May (PF).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr, BR 20 May (G&MC).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr, VTV 20 May (BMc).
Alder Flycatcher: arr, Cgy 11 May (MC).
Willow Flycatcher: arr, 2 CMR 14 May (DRg).
Least Flycatcher: arr, SRd 4 May (JSh).
Eastern Phoebe: arr, BR 21 Mar (LW).
Northern Shrike: AF 2 Apr (DRg), last.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr, PC 18 May (RB).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr, MM 19 Apr (SR).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr, CMR 20 May (J&PT).
Warbling Vireo: arr, WM 5 May (JP).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr, LA 8 May (BK).
Canada Jay: 3 BB 27 May (EGt).
Fish Crow: arr, AP 13 Apr (KMc).
Common Raven: 2 VTV 18 Mar.
Horned Lark: NF 6 Apr (BK).
Purple Martin: no reports.
Tree Swallow: arr, CH 13 Mar (BK).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr, AP 20 Apr (SC); 4 CH 25 Apr (NO, MS), CO-ON.
Bank Swallow: arr, GB 2 May (SR).
Cliff Swallow: arr, CP 12 May (SR).
Barn Swallow: arr, TI 5 Apr (SR), early.
Boreal Chickadee: 5 TL 20 Apr (AV).
Tufted Titmouse: 4 PtR 11 Mar (AB).
House Wren: arr, MM 21 Apr (SR).
Winter Wren: 3 LL 9 Apr (PJ).
Marsh Wren: arr, RW 3 May (KA).
Carolina Wren: WP 27 Apr (SR).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr, AP 20 Apr (SC).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 8 PtR 21 Apr (JS).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr, KVe 10 Apr (JP).
Eastern Bluebird: arr, PH 11 Mar (SW).
Veery: arr, PtR 4 May (RC).
Bicknell's Thrush: WF 31 May (LK).
Swainson's Thrush: arr, 2 BHT 14 May (SR).
Hermit Thrush: arr, 3 BL 14 Apr (BMc).
Wood Thrush: arr, TI 5 May (MMr).
Gray Catbird: arr, 2 LL 6 May (SH).
Brown Thrasher: arr, EAW 30 Mar (GL); early Fran date.
Northern Mockingbird: PL 21 Mar (SR).
Bohemian Waxwing: TI 13 Apr (SR).
Cedar Waxwing: 52 Es 1 May (SR).
American Pipit: CR 15 Apr (BK).
Evening Grosbeak: 52 EAW 17 Mar (GL), max.
Purple Finch: 14 AIC 10 May (RH).
Common Redpoll: 12 PK 6 Mar (DR).
Hoary Redpoll: EAW 27 Mar (GL).
Lapland Longspur: 5 RRd 11 Mar (DH), last.
Snow Bunting: 4 PtR 13 Mar (MC), last.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr, CMP 19 Apr (GC).
American Tree Sparrow: 2 AP 12 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr, KVe 12 Mar (JP).
Field Sparrow: arr, LC 31 Mar (MM).
Vesper Sparrow: arr, DRd 9 Apr (SR).
Savannah Sparrow: arr, 2 LC 11 Apr (MC).
Fox Sparrow: arr, MM 29 Mar (SR).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr, RF 23 Apr (NR).
Swamp Sparrow: arr, 3 CMR 14 Apr (J&PT).
White-throated Sparrow: 12 AP 11 May (AB).
White-crowned Sparrow: PH 3 May (SR).
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R7):
 RHR 5-7 May (MK).
Bobolink: arr, 2 CP 5 May (SR).
Eastern Meadowlark: arr, LAb 15 Mar (M&WM).
Orchard Oriole: 2 OH 17 May (JT); CP 21 May (GH).
Baltimore Oriole: arr, TI 3 May (GC).
Red-winged Blackbird: arr, ES 13 Mar (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 PtR 30 Apr (JH).
Rusty Blackbird: arr, EC 17 Mar (SR).
Common Grackle: arr, CP 15 Mar (SR).
Ovenbird: arr, 2 MM 5 May (SR).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr, BR 18 Apr (GCh).
Northern Waterthrush: arr, LC 3 May (SMc).
Golden-winged Warbler: arr, WRS 18 May (DRg).
Blue-winged Warbler: arr, WRS 19 May (DRg).
"Brewster's" Warbler: 2 WRS 19 May (DRg).
Black and White Warbler: arr, PtR 30 Apr (JH).
Tennessee Warbler: arr, PC 8 May (SR).
Nashville Warbler: arr, MM 5 May (SR).
Mourning Warbler: arr, BR 20 May (SR).
Common Yellowthroat: arr, PC 8 May (SR).
American Redstart: arr, LP 5 May (JWM).
Cape May Warbler: arr, 2 LC 5 May (SMc).
Northern Parula: arr, 2 PS 6 May (BMc).
Magnolia Warbler: arr, MM 3 May (SR).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr, SL 20 May (BMc).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr, PS 4 May (JS).
Yellow Warbler: arr, MM 7 May (SR).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr, CP 9 May (SR).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr, CP 15 May; 21 AP 28 May (KMc), max.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr, MM 3 May (SR).
Palm Warbler: arr, LC 16 Apr (SMc).
Pine Warbler: arr, PS 15 Apr (JO).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr, WP 17 Apr (J&PT).
Prairie Warbler: MtD 25 May (GC).

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr, NP 2 May (SR).
Canada Warbler: arr, HS 16 May (SR).
Wilson's Warbler: arr, CP 19 May (GH).
Scarlet Tanager: arr, LP 7May (EJ).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr, TI 23 Apr (MMr).
Indigo Bunting: arr. SL 7 May (EGt).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Temp	Albany			Glens Falls		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Mar	35.2°	35.1°	+0.1°	30.8°	31.3°	-0.5°
Apr	49.8°	47.8°	+2.0°	45.3°	44.6°	+0.7°
May	58.5°	58.3°	+0.2°	55.7°	55.3°	+0.4°

Precip	Albany			Glens Falls		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Mar	1.35"	3.21"	-1.86"	1.22"	2.94"	-1.72"
Apr	4.32"	3.17"	+1.15"	5.88"	3.00"	+2.88"
May	3.08"	3.61"	-0.53"	4.81"	3.61"	+1.20"

The March-May period featured near normal temperatures. Albany averaged less than 1.0° above normal. March and May had below normal precipitation amounts at Albany, while April was wetter than the norm. There was still snow on the ground in valley areas through mid-March. River ice that had thickened during a cold snap in early March began receding rather rapidly from mid-month onwards. Leaf-out seemed ahead of typical levels by 1 May, especially compared to spring 2018.

The bird of the season was a **Summer Tanager**, reported on Facebook and eBird with photographs, from a homeowner in Guilderland, Albany County on 29 April. It was frequenting a suet feeder that day and was not seen subsequently.

Two Greater White-fronted Geese were observed in March. One spent the first nine days of the month along the Mohawk River in Fultonville, Montgomery County. The other was seen on the Hudson River in Ft. Miller, Washington County on 24 March. Brant made their usual quick passage through the area in mid to late May, with 25-26 May having large numbers reported.

Wrights Loop in Saratoga County continued to produce large gatherings of ducks in early April, with snowmelt and rainfall flooding the fields there to a proper depth and breadth for dabbling. Diving duck numbers seemed to be down this spring. *Aythya* sp. counts were solid, however, with even hard to find Canvasback and Redhead reported, albeit in low numbers. White-winged and Black Scoters were seen in a few places at the end of April and early May. Red-breasted Mergansers were present in their typically small groups.

A **Pacific Loon** was observed and photographed by Ron Harrower from the Silver Beach area of Saratoga Lake on 29 April. He had originally reported the bird as a Red-throated Loon, but the images that he posted online were viewed by several other birders with experience in separating the two species. They concluded that it fit better for the former. It was refound the following day by several other observers who documented their sightings of plumage and behavior. This would be only the second report of Pacific Loon in Region 8 in the last ten years.

Three reports of Glossy Ibis were received this season. The first was seen wading in a farm pond near Pittstown, Rensselaer County on 20 April. Another was foraging at Round Lake Preserve in Saratoga County on 2 May. Finally, two birds were observed in a flooded field south of Schuylerville in Washington County on 9 May.

A group of eight Long-eared Owls roosted in a section of the Fort Edward Grasslands for at least the first half of March. As many as seven Short-eared Owls were still being seen in that same area in early March.

Songbird migration seemed on schedule for most species, with some early arrivals as a result of a warm spell from 19-23 April. Four very cool days at the end of April held back migrants temporarily, but the first two weeks of May saw a large influx of most of the expected species around their typical arrival dates.

An adult Red-headed Woodpecker was observed briefly and photographed as it moved through a rural area east of Cambridge in Washington County on 23 May. Acadian Flycatcher continues to make inroads at the margins of Region 8, with two detected in southern Columbia County. Will Yandik observed one for the second year in a row near Livingston, on 10 May. Another was heard in New Forge SF south of Taghkanic on 30 May. The **Townsend's Solitaire** first discovered in February 2019 near Copake Falls in Columbia County continued to be seen through early April. Pine Grosbeaks made an incursion into northeastern sections of the Region in late winter, with as many as 40 birds in Salem, Washington County. Two birds were also photographed in Hoosick Falls in Rensselaer County on 1 March. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from Normanskill Farm on 12 May and The Crossings of Colonie on 13 May. Both of those sightings were from Albany County. An additional Clay-colored Sparrow was noted from Canajoharie in Montgomery County on 21 May.

A Prothonotary Warbler was photographed foraging in a downed tree along the towpath canal at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve by Gregory Hamlin on 11 May. This is only the fourth sighting of the species in Region 8 in

the last decade. Some impressive warbler high counts were recorded around the area this spring, including Ovenbird (70!) at Schodack Island SP on 15 May; American Redstart (70!) also at Schodack Island SP on 15 May; Yellow Warbler (57!) at Vischer Ferry NHP on 22 May; and Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) (110!) at Vischer Ferry NHP on 2 May.

234 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Coxsackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 300 Ft Miller WASH 25 Mar.
Greater White-fronted Goose: Mohawk R Fultonville MONT 1-9 Mar; Ft Miller WASH 24 Mar.

Brant: max 1125 BCM 25 May.

Canada Goose: max 6000 Easton WASH 17 Mar.

Mute Swan: max 7 Vosburgh Swamp WMA 24 Mar.

Wood Duck: max 240 Wrights Loop SARA 3 Apr, high number.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Round L Pres SARA 19 Mar.

Northern Shoveler: arr Wrights Loop SARA 16 Mar.

Gadwall: max 22 Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 3 Apr.

American Wigeon: max 57 Wrights Loop SARA 8 Apr.

American Black Duck: max 450 Stillwater SARA 21 Mar, high number.

Northern Pintail: max 47 Wrights Loop SARA 28 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 175 Wrights Loop SARA 4 Apr, high number.

Canvasback: 3 Schaghticoke RENS 7-9 Mar; 3 Fultonville MONT 12-16 Apr.

Redhead: 7 Fultonville MONT 12 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 225 Hudson Pointe NP WARR 30 Mar.

Greater Scaup: max 24 Saratoga L SARA 16 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: max 178 Saratoga L SARA 2 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: max 12 Saratoga L SARA 4 May.

Black Scoter: Saratoga L SARA 30 Apr- 2 May, only report.

Long-tailed Duck: max 12 Saratoga L SARA 30 Apr.

Bufflehead: max 65 BCR 4 Apr.

Common Goldeneye: max 180 Stillwater SARA 12 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: max 34 VFNHP 24 Mar.

Common Merganser: max 206 Schaghticoke RENS 16 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 5 Saratoga L SARA 6 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: arr T Saratoga SARA 28 Mar.

Ruffed Grouse: max 4 Warrensburgh WARR 4 May.

Wild Turkey: max 220 Coeymans ALBA 5 Mar.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Stillwater SARA 15 Mar; max 7 TR 20 Apr.

Horned Grebe: arr Albany ALBA 3 Mar; max 22 Saratoga L SARA 30 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: arr Corning Riverfront P ALBA 3 Mar; max 14 L George WARR 5 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Schaghticoke RENS 18 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr VFNHP 9 May.

Common Nighthawk: arr RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE 14 May; max 12 Yankee Hill Lock Mont 22 May.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr Burnt Hills SARA 1 May; 5 Malta Tech P SARA 18 May; 5 APBP 18 May; 3 Coeymans Hollow ALBA 18 May.

Chimney Swift: arr RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE 19 Apr; max 100 CF 28 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Hillsdale COLU 19 Apr; max 5 Elka P GREE 26 May.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 4 Apr; max 10 BCM 29 Apr.

Sora: arr VFNHP 18 Apr; max 5 BCM 28 Apr.

Common Gallinule: arr Sharon Springs SCHO 23 Apr; max 4 BCM 7 May.

American Coot: 2 Franklinton Vlaie SCHO 8 Apr, only report.

Sandhill Crane: Clifton Park SARA 30 Apr; Staats Island Rd RENS 6 May.

Black-bellied Plover: Staats Island Rd RENS 4 May; 4 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 10 May.

Semipalmated Plover: max 13 Easton WASH 10 May.

Killdeer: arr Richmondville SCHO 4 Mar; max 22 Staats Isalnd Rd RENS 21 Mar.

Upland Sandpiper: Ames MONT 29 May; Dowmont Rd, Ft Edward WASH 30 May.

Dunlin: 7 The Crossings ALBA 10 May; Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 14 May; 2 Schaghticoke RENS 17 May; Wrights Loop SARA 26 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr Easton WASH 13 Apr; max 33 Schaghticoke RENS 12 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Wrights Loop SARA 12 May; max 10 Schaghticoke RENS 29 May.

American Woodcock: arr Ancram COLU 12 Mar; max 9 Warrensburg WARR 4 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr Catskill GREE 24 Mar; max 25 Wrights Loop 19 SARA Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr Saratoga L SARA 2 Apr; max 10 Schaghticoke RENS 10 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Ancram COLU 4 Apr; max 27 Wrights Loop SARA 21 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 17 Apr; max 45 Easton WASH 15 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr Easton WASH 10 Apr; max 20 Easton WASH 15 May.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr AR 6 Apr; max 41 Saratoga L SARA 1 May.

Ring-billed Gull: max 3500 T Northumberland SARA 26 Mar.

Herring Gull: max 1000 T Northumberland SARA 26 Mar.

Iceland Gull: max 2 Fultonville MONT 2 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Crescent Power Plant ALBA 2 Mar; Corning Riverfront P ALBA 4 Mar; Fultonville MONT 12 Mar; Schaghticoke RENS 12 Mar; T Northumberland SARA 14 Mar.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 53 Saratoga Springs Waterfront P SARA 7 Apr.
Caspian Tern: arr Athens GREE 7 Apr; max 3 Corning Riverfront P ALBA 10 Apr.
Black Tern: Ferguson Pd, Coxsackie GREE 12 May; 2 Saratoga L SARA 27 May; Schaghticoke RENS 28 May.
Common Tern: 3 Saratoga L SARA 2 May; Papscanee I SP RENS 6 May; Coeymans Landing ALBA 20 May.

LOONS-FALCONS

PACIFIC LOON: Saratoga L SARA 29-30 Apr, *intro*, NYSARC.
Common Loon: max 19 Saratoga L SARA 2 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr TR 16 Mar.
Great Cormorant: Germantown COLU 24 Mar, only report.
American Bittern: arr New Baltimore GREE 24 Mar, early; max 10 BCM 29 Apr.
Least Bittern: arr VFNHP 25 Apr; mx 2 BCM 8 May.
Great Blue Heron: max 32 TR 11 Apr.
Great Egret: arr Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 7 Apr.
Green Heron: arr Woodlawn Pres SCHE 15 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: BCM 18 Apr; Lions P, Niskayuna SCHE 25 Apr; Woodlawn Pres SCHE 26 Apr; Amsterdam MONT 6 May.
GLOSSY IBIS (R8): Pittstown RENS 20 Apr; Round L Pres SARA 2 May; Easton WASH 9 May.
Black Vulture: max 45 Guilderland ALBA 20 Mar.
Turkey Vulture: max 120 Guilderland ALBA 20 Mar.
Osprey: arr Cohoes ALBA 23 Mar.
Golden Eagle: Kinderhook COLU 8 Mar; Schaghticoke RENS 16 Mar; Austerlitz COLU 2 Apr.
Northern Harrier: max 5 FtEG 2 Mar.
Northern Goshawk: Hillsdale COLU 15 Apr; Livingston COLU 25 Apr.
Bald Eagle: max 29 TR 29 Mar.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 3 Stillwater SARA 17 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Grafton RENS 13 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 9 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE 31 May.
Rough-legged Hawk: last Greenfield Ctr SARA 3 Apr.
Eastern Screech-Owl: max 4 Albany ALBA 19 May.
Snowy Owl: last Malta SARA 3 Mar.
Long-eared Owl: max 8 FtEG 2 Mar.
Short-eared Owl: max 7 FtEG 2 Mar; 2 Sprakers MONT 2 Mar; Coxsackie GREE 25 Mar; 2 Minden MONT 26 Mar; last CCGP 27 Mar.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Hudson Pointe NP WARR 1 Apr, only report.
Belted Kingfisher: max 6 FR 13 Apr; Hoosick Falls River Trail RENS 21 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: ad White Creek WASH 23 May, only report.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 13 VFNHP 5 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 8 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 4 May; Stillwater Sch Nature Trail SARA 4 May.
Downy Woodpecker: max 12 Normanskill Farm ALBA 14 Apr.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 Pittstown SF RENS 21 Apr.
Northern Flicker: max 13 Schaghticoke RENS 23 Apr.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 5 Schaghticoke RENS 29 Mar.
American Kestrel: max 5 Hoosick RENS 17 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Dunn Mem Br RENS 20 May.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr RamsHorn-Livingston Sanctuary GREE 30 Apr; max 7 Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 26 May.
Eastern Kingbird: arr Middleburgh SCHO 28 Apr; max 8 BCM 22 May.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr BMB 17 May.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr Glenville SCHE 10 May; max 14 New Forge SF COLU 30 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Elka P GREE 19 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: Livingston COLU 10 May; New Forge SF COLU 30 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr APBP 16 May; max 7 BMB 22 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr APBP 5 May, early; max 5 BMB 22 May; BCM 27 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 29 Apr; max 7 VFNHP 4 May.

Eastern Phoebe: arr FR 19 Mar; max 13 VFNHP 5 Apr.

Northern Shrike: last Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 30 Mar.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 29 VFNHP Apr; max 8 VFNHP 20 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Livingston COLU 14 Apr; max 16 SNHP 5 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: Ann Lee Pd ALBA 14 May; Lost Valley SF MONT 21 May; L Desolation Rd SARA 22 May; Plotter Kill Pres SCHE 25 May. All reports well documented by observers, nice work.

Warbling Vireo: arr VFNHP 25 Apr; max 22 VFNHP 22 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Hudson Crossing P SARA 2 May; max 22 APBP 29 May.

Blue Jay: max 150 Austerlitz COLU 6 May, migrating north in groups.

American Crow: max 500 Athens GREE 11 Mar.

Fish Crow: max 24 Round L Pres SARA 29 Mar.

Common Raven: max 10 Westerlo ALBA 3 Apr.

Horned Lark: max 80 Fultonville MONT 9 Mar.

Purple Martin: arr Saratoga L SARA 13 Apr; max 19 Charlton SARA 4 May.

Tree Swallow: arr 15 Mar, mult reports; max 600 Tambul Pd RENS 15 Apr.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr CL 6 Apr; max 32 Schaghticoke RENS 25 May.

Bank Swallow: arr Schaghticoke RENS 18 Apr; max 100 Kinderhook COLU 25 May.

Cliff Swallow: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 30 Apr; Saratoga L SARA 30 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr Niskayuna SCHE 7 Apr; max 80 TR 1 May.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 37 VFNHP 30 Mar.

Tufted Titmouse: max 18 BMB 6 Apr.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 5 FR 4 May; Dyken Pd RENS 18 May; Rensselaerville SF ALBA 23 May.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 9 BMB 6 Apr.

Brown Creeper: max 5 Hudson Pointe NP WARR 1 Apr.

House Wren: arr Clifton P SARA 16 Apr; max 11 Glenmont ALBA 12 May.

Winter Wren: max 14 Plateau Mt GREE 20 May.

Marsh Wren: arr BCM 21 Apr; max 19 Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 22 May.

Carolina Wren: max 6 Normanskill Farm ALBA 26 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 13 Apr; max 20 VFNHP 4 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 30 BMB 13 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 3 Apr; max 30 VFNHP 5 May.

Eastern Bluebird: max 12 Glenville SCHE 13 Mar.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: cont vagrant, Copake Falls COLU 8 Mar- 5 Apr, *intro*.

Veery: arr Schodack I SP RENS 1 May; max 16 Schodack I SP RENS 15 May.

Bicknell's Thrush: 3 Plateau Mt GREE 20 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr Vale P SCHE 4 May, early; max 9 Plateau Mt GREE 20 May.

Hermit Thrush: max 5 Cherry Plain SP RENS 18 May; Plateau Mt GREE 18 May.

Wood Thrush: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 30 Apr; max 50 Schodack I SP RENS 15 May.

American Robin: max 265 TR 4 Apr.

Gray Catbird: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 21 Apr; max 40 Schodack I SP RENS 15 May.

Brown Thrasher: arr Glenville SCHE 10 Apr; max 5 Schaghticoke RENS 5 May.

Northern Mockingbird: max 4, mult reports.

European Starling: max 3500 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 9 Mar.

Cedar Waxwing: max 70 Ghent COLU 13 Mar.

American Pipit: max 7 E Greenbush RENS 3 May.

Evening Grosbeak: max 220 Summit SCHO 20 Apr., minor irruptive season.

Pine Grosbeak: max 40 Salem WASH 9 Mar., minor irruptive season.

Purple Finch: max 45 Pittstown RENS 15 May.

Common Redpoll: max 100 Lions P, Niskayuna SCHE 16 Mar, major irruptive season; last Lock 7 SCP SCHE 31 Mar.

Pine Siskin: max 18 Schodack RENS 7 May, minor irruptive season.

Lapland Longspur: White Creek WASH 1 Mar, only report.

Snow Bunting: max 30 White Creek WASH 1 Mar; last Hoosick RENS 11 Mar.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr Corning Riverfront P ALBA 2 Apr; max 18 APBP 30 Apr.

American Tree Sparrow: last Saratoga Springs SARA 23 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Round L Pres SARA 30 Mar; max 28 Warrensburg WARR 20 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Normanskill Farm ALBA 12 May; The Crossings ALBA 13 May; Canajoharie MONT 21 May.

Field Sparrow: arr Livingston COLU 15 Mar; max 23 Claverack COLU 23 Apr; SNHP 27 May.

Vesper Sparrow: arr Brunswick RENS 26 Mar, early; max 3 Putnam Sta WASH 13 Apr; Hillsdale COLU 4 May.

Savannah Sparrow: max 8 Glenville SCHE 30 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Overmountain Cons Area COLU 9 May; max 3 Saratoga Co Arpt SARA 29 May.

Fox Sparrow: arr E. Greenbush RENS 15 Mar; 9 Copake Falls COLU 5 Apr.

Song Sparrow: max 52 Schaghticoke RENS 31 Mar.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr White Creek WARR 7 May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr FR 28 Mar; max 52 BMB 13 Apr.

White-throated Sparrow: arr OCA 6 Apr; max 11 The Crossings ALBA 5 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 45 FR 9 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 130 Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail ALBA 17 Apr.

Bobolink: arr BCM 29 Apr; max 25 Fultonville MONT 21 May.

Eastern Meadowlark: arr Coxsackie GREE 10 Mar; max 8 OCA 22 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: arr E Greenbush RENS 2 May; max 4 SNHP 23 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr APBP 30 Apr; Schodack RENS 30 Apr; max 17 VFNHP 22 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 2500 Coveville SARA 25 Apr.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 300 Livingston COLU 24 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Ames MONT, Round L Pres SARA 19 Mar; max 109 BMB 13 Apr.

Common Grackle: max 6100 Saratoga Waterfront P SARA 7 Apr.

Ovenbird: arr Averill P RENS 26 Apr; max 70 Schodack I SP RENS 15 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 4 May, mult loc; max 4 Alander Mt Trail COLU 25 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Ancram COLU 7 Apr; max 5 Wolf Hollow SCHE 23 Apr.

Northern Waterthrush: arr Pittstown SF

RENS 21 Apr; max 7 VFNHP 6 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: White Creek WASH 4 May; FR 9 May; Putnam WASH 25 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Schaghticoke RENS 3 May; max 15 FR 9 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: Putnam WASH 26 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Saratoga Spa SP SARA 20 Apr; max 17 Schodack I SP RENS 6 May.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R8): VFNHP 11 May.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Ft Plain MONT 7 May; max 17 Saratoga Co Arpt SARA 26 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr Albany ALBA 2 May; max 10 Schodack I SP RENS 20 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 13 May; max 2 Normanskill Farm ALBA, North River WARR 26 May.

Common Yellowthroat: arr Great Flats NP SCHE 24 Apr; max 33 SNHP 27 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr Hand Hollow Cons Area COLU 6 May; max 2 OCA 18 May.

American Redstart: arr VFNHP 29 Apr; max 70 Schodack I SP RENS 15 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr Spring Run Trail SARA 2 May; max 4 Schaghticoke RENS 18 May; Spectacle L FULT 21 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Ancram COLU 6 May; max 6 Alander Mt Trail COLU 26 May.

Northern Parula: arr Schaghticoke RENS, Schodack RENS 3 May; max 10 Livingston COLU 8 May; APBP 15 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr mult loc 3 May; max 13 Plateau Mt GREE 20 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Livingston COLU 7 May; max 15 Normanskill Farm ALBA 20 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Copake COLU 1 May; max 15 Spruceton Trail GREE 18 May; Spectacle L FULT 21 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr Zim Smith Trail SARA 21 Apr; max 57 VFNHP 22 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr mult loc 3 May; max 12 Harlem Valley Rail Trail COLU 16 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Warren Co Bikeway WARR 4 May, early; max 35 Plateau Mt GREE 20 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr OCA 25 Apr; max 12 Fox Hill Rd SARA 17 May.
Palm Warbler: arr Pittstown RENS 1 Apr; max 7 BCM 19 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr Chatham COLU 1 Apr; max Moreau L SP SARA 2 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Greenwich WASH 6 Apr; max 110 VFNHP 4 May.
Prairie Warbler: arr Ghent COLU 3 May; max 16 Deer Mt Nature Trail (power line ROW) ALBA 26 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Grafton RENS 21 Apr; max 12 mult loc.

Canada Warbler: arr VFNHP 7 May; max 6 Berlin RENS 20 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Stillwater Sch Nature Trail SARA, VFNHP 4 May; max 2 FR 11 May, VFNHP 22 May.
SUMMER TANAGER (R8): Guilderland ALBA 29 Apr, *intro*, NYSARC.
Scarlet Tanager: arr Staats I Rd RENS 28 Apr; max 8 Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 26 May.
Northern Cardinal: max 22 New Baltimore GREE 28 Apr.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr TR 20 Apr; max 16 VFNHP 5 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr Catskill GREE 3 May; max 7 Deer Mt Nature Trail (power line ROW) ALBA 26 May.

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REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The period was cooler and wetter than normal overall. March was cold early in the month and was slow to warm even by the end of the month. As had become the norm this winter, the cold temperatures warmed with weather events and most of the precipitation was in the form of rain. No archived data were available for March. April was just about average temperature wise. There was a high of 78° F 19 April, 4° above normal, and a low of 20° on 2 April, 2° below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.85", .7" above normal. May continued cool and wet with a high of 88° on 26 May, and a low of 40° 15 May. This averaged out to 71.3°, 1.7° below normal. There was 4.77" of precipitation, .36" above normal.

As one might expect, spring was an active period throughout the Region, with exceptional birds being found in many areas.

On 5 March Curt McDermott found an adult Ross's Goose on Bruyn Turnpike, Town of Wallkill, Ulster County. The bird was seen for five days moving between Lippencott Road, Blue Chip Farms and Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, allowing many birders to track it down.

On 6 March an adult Greater White-fronted Goose that had been seen throughout the winter period was again found at Edith G. Read Nature Sanctuary in Rye, Westchester County, relocated by Gail Benson and Tom Burke.

The **Trumpeter Swan** found by the author in February on the Rondout Reservoir continued throughout March, allowing many to enjoy it through its last day on 1 April.

On 4 March Gail Benson and Tom Burke relocated an adult male Eurasian Wigeon in Rye, which they had originally found in February. More cooperative this time around, the bird was seen by several observers over the next two weeks.

A “Eurasian” **Green-winged Teal** discovered 20 March on Round Pond in Amenia by Chet Vincent was cited as a first record for Dutchess County in the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club’s newsletter, *Wings Over Dutchess* April 2019 edition. This sighting was followed by **two** Eurasian Green-winged Teals found by Carena Pooth and Barbara Butler on 26 March at the Strever Farm pond in Pine Plains. Photos were obtained from both locations.

On 8 April, a front from the south was accompanied by a rain event from the southwest. The rain began in the middle of the night with migration well under way, and this put down many birds throughout our Region, resulting in a good fallout. The Bashakill State Wildlife Management Area seemed to get the highest number of birds: Horned Grebe (37), Red-necked Grebe (7), Red-breasted Mergansers (13), Long-tailed Duck (2), Lesser Scaup (7) and Bufflehead (36) joined the already abundant waterfowl present. Ruddy Ducks were found at Swan Lake and Bonaparte’s Gulls were in three locations around the county. Neighboring Orange County had similar results in somewhat lower numbers, except for Long-tailed Duck, 27 of which were found on Orange Lake.

On 11 May, Wendy Tocci found a calling **King Rail** at Great Vly in Ulster County, a good location for this vagrant in the past.

Sandhill Cranes made a good showing in the Region this spring. On 16 March during a Mearn’s Bird Club field trip, Bruce Nott found a pair at the Bashakill. The birds remained most of the morning, eventually lifting off and heading over the ridge into Orange County. On 20 March a Sandhill Crane was seen on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail on a Waterman Bird Club Field Trip. On 27 March, one was seen flying over Sturgeon Pool in Ulster County, but not seen again. On 30 March a pair of cranes, possibly the same birds seen earlier in the month at the Bashakill, were found in the Black Dirt Region. They moved back and forth into New Jersey, returning regularly to the Orange County side as the period progressed. These birds were observed performing a courtship display and they mated. Near the end of April, one was found on a nest in the Wallkill River NWR just across the state line in New Jersey. As of this writing, three eggs have been confirmed in the nest. (The nesting ultimately failed.) Additional cranes were also seen. On 11 May Scott Baldinger’s “Big Day” team had a flyby at the Bashakill, and as many as five were seen on 18 May in the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge.

On 10 April, Heather Perusini found and photographed a basic plumaged American Golden-Plover at Croton Point Park. This species is rarely seen in the Region in spring, this being only the second Regional record for this time of year.

On 10 May, Sean Camillieri found a beautiful alternate plumaged black and white **Ruff** at Marshland Conservancy in Rye. It remained just long enough for a few more lucky birders to see it.

On 11 May Sean Camillieri found a pair of Black Terns at the Bashakill State Wildlife Management Area. Historically fairly common there, this was the first record in many years. They were found in the middle of a “Big Day” weekend and many birders got to see them. These were followed three days later by two more Black Terns, one of which continued the following day.

Jim Yates found an **American White Pelican** at Sleightsburg Spit on 2 May. The bird was seen by many observers from several vantage points around the area. It was also recorded for Dutchess County from Grimmel Street in Rhinecliff when it flew across the river briefly.

A Tricolored Heron was found at Tivoli Bays Wildlife Management Area on 21 April and remained for several days. On 22 April it was joined by a Little Blue Heron, these both seen by several observers.

Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found early in the season at two locations. Aiello Park in Westchester County was a location where one might expect to find this species, but finding one, and later a pair, at a small stillwater pond in Orange County was most unexpected. First found by Joyce Depew and her grandson, they were ultimately seen by many observers. Only one bird had been seen since, but breeding is suspected, and continued observation of the site may yet confirm it (two birds again being seen in early June). An article containing details of the discovery and subsequent observations of this pair will be published in the next issue of *The Kingbird*.

On 20 April, Bruce Nott found five Glossy Ibis at the Route 207 Marsh in Montgomery. This was to be the first of many sightings in the Region throughout the period. On 4 May Jim Tuman found two at Croton Point Park, followed by three found by Matthew Strobino on the 17th. Two more were found by the author and his “Big Day” team at the Bashakill State Wildlife Management Area on 10 May. Finally, Matt Zeitler found a Glossy Ibis at Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge on 12 May. This bird remained in the area through 21 May and was seen by many.

On 11 May, Mark DeDea found a singing Clay-colored Sparrow at Scenic Hudson on Kukuk Lane in the Town of Ulster. The bird was reported several times over the next two weeks.

On 23 March Matt Zeitler found an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** on Lynch Avenue in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. The bird was in striking alternate plumage. Matt got the word out quickly and after some searching the bird was relocated and viewed by several birders. The bird could not be found the next day. On 31 March Tom Crepet and Jane Vechionne were having breakfast at their home in Gardiner when they looked out at their feeders as an adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird flew in with a group of Red-winged Blackbirds. They were able to get many photos of the bird in the half hour it remained, but unfortunately, the bird took off before any other birders could arrive. A search of the area failed to relocate the bird.

On 6 May Matthew and Barbara Strobino reported a Prothonotary Warbler at Rockefeller State Park. This was followed shortly thereafter on 7 May by another

found by Linda Scrima at the Laurel Grove Cemetery in Port Jervis, where it was seen by several people. Yet another Prothonotary was found by Anne Swaim at the Oscawana Island Nature Preserve on 13 May and remained until the following day.

On 4 May Curt McDermott, Tom Burke and Gail Benson found an adult male **Townsend's Warbler** at the Bashakill State Wildlife Management Area. The bird was seen and described well by the group but did not linger for additional birders who came to see it. This is a first record for Sullivan County. On 9 May Wilma Amthor spotted an adult female **Summer Tanager** feeding on the oranges in her yard. She had prolonged looks at the bird and managed some nice photos as well. This is only the second record for Sullivan County. On 28 May Melinda Cormier discovered an adult male **Western Tanager** at her feeders. She got some excellent photos of the bird, but it was not seen after that day. This is a first record for Sullivan County. A Blue Grosbeak was found by Bob Shriber at Marshland Conservancy on 6 May, only lingering a short time.

Notable this spring were record-setting early arrival dates for several passerines including Wilson's Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Cerulean Warbler and Yellow-throated Vireo.

Addendum: On 5 May **2018** Chris Chappell was birding along Haven Road at the Bashakill in Sullivan County, New York. He came upon a sparrow foraging in the undergrowth along the road. It caught his attention and he immediately began to video the bird. At that time, he couldn't identify the bird. He later reviewed his video and created still photos from that video. Upon extensive review the only identification he could come up with was **Seaside Sparrow!** He completed an eBird report identifying the bird as such and welcoming input from the regional reviewers to further aid in a conclusive identification. The report was ultimately confirmed and accepted by eBird. This is an amazing, rare, inland record of this species and a remarkable addition to the Sullivan County list. We congratulate Chris on his astute observation and follow up to confirm this unprecedented find.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza, SULL; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BFAS** – Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary, DUTC; **BMSP** – Bear Mountain SP, ROCK; **BP** – Browns Pd, ORAN; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **CFSP** – Clarence Fahnestock SP, PUTN; **CIOES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **CMACS** – Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, DUTC; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **DR** – Doodletown Rd, ROCK; **DRT** – Dutchess Rail Trail, DUTC; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLH** – Esopus Meadows Light House, ULST; **FPNC** – Forsythe P and Nature Center, ULST; **GL** – Glenmere L, ORAN; **GMP** – Glasco Mini P, ULST; **GV** – Great Vly WMA, ULST; **HS** – Harcourt Sanctuary, ULST; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail, DUTC; **II** – Iona I, ROCK; **KL** – Kiamesha L, SULL; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; **LGC** – Laurel Grove Cemetery, ORAN; **LM** – Liberty Marsh, ORAN; **LNP** – Lenoir Nature Preserve, WEST; **LR** – Larchmont Res, WEST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MF** – Muscoot Farm, WEST; **MP** – Morningside P, SULL; **MPHW** – Mount Peter Hawk Watch, ORAN; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink

Res, SULL; NW – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; OCBDR – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; OINP – Oscawana I Nature Preserve, WEST; OMRLMSP – Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; PHP – Peach Hill P, DUTC; PITN – Pine Island Turf Nursery, ORAN; PP – Piermont Pier, ROCK; RL – Rhinecliff Landing, DUTC; RLSP – Rockland L SP, ROCK; RNC – Rye Nature Center, WEST; RR – Rondout Res, SULL; RSP – Rockefeller SP, WEST; SFSP – Sterling Forest SP, ORAN; SGWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; SHSR – Six and a Half Station Road, ORAN; SS – Sleightsburg Spit, ULST; SSF – Stewart State Forest, ORAN; TBWMA – Tivoli Bays WMA, DUTC; THMUA – Taconic-Herford Multiple Use Area, DUTC; WL – Wickham L, ORAN; WRNWR – Wallkill Ri NWR, ORAN.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 500 WRNWR 14 Mar (RAuthier); 82 NR 31 Mar (JHaa); 15 OCBDR 24 Mar (SHernandez, APerkins). Unusually low numbers.

Ross's Goose: Bruyn Turnpike-Lippencott Rd, ULST 5-10 Mar (CMc, JHaa, BNo, KMcD, mob).

Greater White-fronted Goose: LR 3 Mar (MBo); EGR 6-7 Mar (GB, SCam, KMcGr); Rye Brook, WEST 12 Mar (GB, TBu).

Brant: 8008 II 18 May (GB, TBu). 24 migrating flocks.

Cackling Goose: Stissing Pd DUTC 3 Mar (SMit, PLi, PMo, DvZ); Wisner Rd ORAN 6 Mar (JCl); BCF 9 Mar (DHuessy, JPr); Tarrytown L P WEST 13 Mar (SK); BSWMA 14 Mar (JHaa); FPNC 15 Mar (MD); SS 15 Mar (JU, JJ); Millerton DUTC 16 Mar (BM).

TRUMPETER SWAN (R9): RR continuing 1 Mar-1 Apr (JHaa, TBu, GB, mob).

Tundra Swan: Stoneridge ULST 1 Mar (PD, GB, LTa, DHayes); HVRT 11 Apr (MNi, MSo); 4 Amenia 13 Mar (DFl); 3 Ryder Pd DUTC 15 Mar (DK); Tamarack L DUTC 18 Mar (JAs).

Eurasian Wigeon: Rye, WEST 4-18 Mar (BSh, GB, TBu, mob).

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal: m Round Pd, Amenia DUTC 20 Mar (C. Vincent, ph) and 26 Mar (CP); 2 males Strever Farm pond, Pine Plains DUTC (CP, BB, T. Macchiarola ph, mob); first record for county; unclear whether one was the same as the Round Pd bird.

Canvasback: NCR 1-19 Mar (CR, SWa, GB); 2 BP 4-11 Mar (BNo, JHaa, KMi); LR 4 Mar (KMcGr); 2 CPP 9 Mar (ASw, CR, DM); max 9 PP 10-31 Mar (VH, KR, ME); 2 Hudson Highland SP PUTN 11 Mar (RB); Beacon Waterfront 13 Mar (AMac); GL 14 Mar (KA).

Redhead: max 18 Lake Mahopac 1-7 Mar (KMcGr, SMit, PLi, mob); 3 BP 7-11 Mar (BNo, JHaa, KMi); 2 GMP 10-18 Mar (MD, FM, mob); 4 KP 14 Mar (FM).

Surf Scoter: 2 EGR 2 Mar (GB, TBu); 2 Ashokan Res. 18 Apr (SCam).

White-winged Scoter: Kensico L 11 Mar (DSi); max 23 EGR 11 Apr (GB, TBu); 2 WL 22 Apr (KA, KMi, MZe, BNo); 4 Orange L 24 Apr (BNo); 3 EMLH 26 Apr (DO); 3 KL 3 May (JHaa).

Long-tailed Duck: 2 BSWMA 3 Apr (SBA, JHaa); KL 8 Apr (JHaa, KMi); WL 8 Apr (KA); 2 BSWMA 8 Apr (BNo, KMi, SBA, JHaa); max 85 EGR 12 Mar (GB, TBu); 6 Sylvan L DUTC 14 Mar (BM); 3 KP 15 Mar (MD); 11 Walton L DUTC 5 May (MZe).

Bufflehead: 3 RR still present 31May (RSt, SBA) very late.

Barrow's Goldeneye: GMP 12-30 Mar (MD, PD, KMcD, mob); KP 16 Mar (DH).

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Lake Mahopac 1-5 Mar (KMcGr, SMit, PLi, mob); 4 CPP 9 Mar (ASw, LTr); 3 EMLH 31 Mar (DT); 3 NW 1 Apr (BNo); max 16 EGR 6 Apr (GB, TBu); max 13 BSWMA 8 Apr (BNo, SBA, JHaa, KMi, PD); 3 TBWMA 11 Apr (DO); KP 2 May (PSch, WTo, NM, MCors, mob).

Ruddy Duck: PP 8 Mar (KR); max 16 LR 7 Apr (SO); 4 Swan L 8 Apr (JHaa, SBA); 3 Rhinebeck Landing 15 Apr (CP); max 26 Lake Carmel 19 Apr (AMac); 6 WL 28 Apr (MZe); 5 MP 3 May (JHaa).

Ruffed Grouse: Minnewaska SP 30 Apr (NM, SBA); BSWMA 3 Apr (SBA); Harriman SP 7 Apr (LD); Slide Mountain 19 Apr (LD).

Horned Grebe: max 37 BSWMA 8 Apr (BNo, SBA, JHaa, KMi, PD); 25 SS 8 Apr (DFe, FM); 30 Orange L 8 Apr (BNo); max 63 EGR 11 Apr (GB, TBu), *intro*.

Red-necked Grebe: Rondout Creek 8 Mar (KMcD); 3 KP 8 Mar (DWe); 7 BSWMA 8 Apr (BNo, SBa, JHaa, KMi, PD); 5 KL 8 Apr (JHaa, KMi); 3 GL 8 Apr (KA); 6 EGR 6 May (GB, TBu), *intro*.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: RNC 4 May (PCI, JCla); CMACS 15 May (KBa, CR); CPP 16 May (KBa, LG); 2 OMRLMSP 25 May (DLu); 3 SFSP 25 May (AMar, EZM); 2 HS 26 May (DWe). 2 BSWMA 27 May (CWo).

Black-billed Cuckoo: LGC 9 May (KA, LScr, MBu); DRT 13 May (MK, DvZ); 2 Mine Rd 17 May (BNo); RSP 18 May (JAb); max 3 SFSP 22-26 May (GB, KFu, SMit); HS 26 May (DWe); Pruyne Sanctuary WEST 27 May (ASw).

Common Nighthawk: 3 BSWMA 10 May (JHaa, LV, KMi); 2 MC 11 May (AMac); PHP 15 May (JAs, DvZ, BM); 4 CPP 16 May (CR); 2 TBWMA 16 May (SRo, AF); BMSP 25 May (PR); 30 BSWMA 24 May (SMit, PLi).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: KP 4 May (WTo); max 6 SFSP 10 May (MZe); max 6 Mine Rd 17 May (BNo); Cooperstown Rd DUTC 18 May (CP); max 5 BSWMA 18 May (SSI, JDi).

RAILS – LARIDS

Clapper Rail: max 8 MC 29 Apr-31 May (GB, MBo, MSt, SWr, mob).

KING RAIL: GV 11 May (WTo), *intro*.

Virginia Rail: max 4 BSWMA 12 Apr (SBA, JHaa, GL, KMi); 2 BFAS 27 Apr (BM, MK, LMar, SRo); 4 SFSP 4 May (BSh, GB, TBu); 2 HS 11 May (DHu); 3 Humpo Marsh ULST 15 May (PSch); 2 KP 16 May (DHu); 2 Thompson Pd 17 May (SRo); 2 SGNWR 19 May (KFe, SF).

Sora: SHSR 27 Apr (KFe, SF); Mudder Kill Swamp DUTC 6 May (SJ); 2 CIOES 9 May (DvZ, mob); Humpo Marsh 10-15 May (PSch); BSWMA 10-21 May (JHaa, LV, mob); max 4 WRNWR 15 May (KA, mob); DHCLP 16 May (BG, JPa).

Common Gallinule: max 10 BSWMA 7 May (GB, TBu, mob); max 4 WRNWR 26 May (JS, DWa); 2 DRT 20-21 May (DvZ, MK).

American Coot: max 35 Lake Mahopac 3 Mar (SMit, PLi, PMo); Sylvan L 1 Apr (CP); 2 RLSP 10 Apr (CCo, AW, mob); max 3 GV 7-25 Apr (DH, PSch, mob); DRT 20-21 May (BM, MK, DvZ); 3 WRNWR 26 May (JS, DWa).

Sandhill Crane: 2 BSWMA 16 Mar (BNo, SBa, JHaa, KMi, RSt, mob); HVRT 20 Mar (MK, mob); max 5 WRNWR 30 Mar-31 May

(LScr, mob); SGNWR 4 May (LTa); BSWMA 11 May (SBa, MBu, JDi, SA), *intro*.

American Oystercatcher: max 5 EGR 27 Mar- 31 May (GB, DvZ, ASw, mob); 2 CPP 20 May (CCo); max 7 MC 2 Apr-31 May (KA, MSt, BST, mob).

Black-bellied Plover: max 3 MC 10-20 May (BSh, GB, KMcGr); 2 OCBDR 15-16 May (BNo, KA, mob); 3 PP 28 May (BKenny).

American Golden-Plover: CPP 10 Apr (HPerusini), *intro*.

Semipalmated Plover: max 6 Rt. 207 Marsh ORAN 11-28 May (BNo, MZe); max 5 CPP 10-12 May (MSt, EB, mob); max 6 EGR 15-29 May (GB, MSt, BST); max 2 AP 16-29 May (JHaa, SBa, NH); 3 Camel Farm ORAN 18 May (JHaa, KMi); max 11 WRNWR 26 May (LScr, JS, DWA).

Ruddy Turnstone: MC 26 May (SRa, SK, MStr, BST), only report.

RUFF MC 10 May (SCam, BSh, TBu, GB).

Sanderling: EGR 17 May (MBo), only report.

Dunlin: 2 MC 10 May (GB, ASw); SSF 18 May (BF); 2 Rt 207 Marsh 18-19 May (BNo); CMACS 23 May (JCollis).

White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 MC 10 May (GB, BSh, TBu); WRNWR 15 May (KA).

Pectoral Sandpiper: AP 4-9 May (JHaa, SBa, KMi, PD); Pine Hill Rd ORAN 6 May (KA); WRNWR 17 May (KA, SBa, MBu); BMSP 19 May (CMi, JVG).

Solitary Sandpiper: max 21 AP 3-26 May (JHaa, SBa, mob), unusually high number.

Willet: max 4 MC 15 Apr- 30 May (GB, SCam, BNi, mob).

Bonaparte's Gull: 3 BSWMA 8 Apr (BNo, SBa); 8 RL 13 Apr (JAs); 7 NR (JHaa, SBa); max 39 CPP 15 Apr-16 May (GB, ASw, DvZ, mob); 26 KP 5 May (NM); 33 Kowawese Unique Area, Plum Pt ORAN (BNo); 5 Norrie Pt 17 May (SR, RMA).

Laughing Gull: 30 CPP 20 Apr (LTr); max 2 MC 21 Apr- 13 May (MSt, BST, GB, MV, SCam); max 5 EGR 28-30 May (GB); CPP 1 May (BST, SCam, SWr).

Iceland Gull: Beacon Waterfront 2-3 Mar (KBa, ASw, CR); Hunter Plaza WEST 6 Mar (VH).

Least Tern: Five Islands P WEST 30 Apr (VH); max 2 MC 10-27 May (GB, MSt, BST).

Caspian Tern: 2 CPP 13 Apr (LTr, GB, mob); Orange L 15 Apr (BNo); 2 CMACS 17 Apr (DvZ, KBa, CR); 2 CPP 1 May (SWr, BST, SRa, PCI); PP 2 May (KR, SCo); 3 KP 11 May (WTo, JPr, Jcli).

Black Tern: GV 4 May (PSch, SRo, SSc); max 2 BSWMA 11-15 May (SCam, KBa, JHaa, LV, mob); EGR 29 May (GB, TBu).
Common Tern: 3 Ashokan Res 30 Apr (PSch, DH); 4 Cornwall Bay (BNo, MZe); 4 Long Dock P 5 May (CP, MZe, BNo); High Banks Preserve 5 May (MD); KP 11 May (WTo, JPr, JCLi); 5 RL 17 May (RMa).
Forster's Tern: max 9 MC 15 Apr- 17 May (GB, SCam, ASw, mob).

LOONS – FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: max 3 EGR 2 Mar-20 Apr (GB, KMcGr, SCam); max 2 MC 15 Mar- 4 May (DJ, ASw, SWr, mob); 13 KL 31 Mar (JHaa, PD, RDe, KMi, KMcD, SBa); KP 31 Mar (PSch, RMi, WTo, NM); GMP 5 Apr (RMi, DT).

Northern Gannet: max 33 EGR 26 Mar- 20 Apr (GB, KMcGr, SWr, mob).

Great Cormorant: max 7 EGR 2 Mar- 12 Apr (GB, TBu, VH, mob); 30 Fleishman's Pier P 3 Mar (CR); KP 7-8 Mar (DH, NM, DWa, mob); 2 Steamboat Riverfront P WEST 10 Mar (SRo); Cornwall Bay 19 Mar (KMcD); max 2 Hudson Highlands SP 20-24 Mar (CP, MRY, AMac, mob); CPP 27-28 Mar (KBa, CR, LG); RSP 16 Apr (VH).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R9): SS 2 May (JY, DH, WTo, mob); Rhinecliff 2 May (DK).

American Bittern: max 2 WRNWR 4 Apr- 31 May (LScr, KA, BNo, mob); max 4 BSWMA 11 Apr- 31 May (JHaa, SBa, SSi, JDi, mob); SHSR 14 Apr- 26 May (KA); Pine Cliff Sanctuary 13 Apr (VH); CPP 26 Apr (VH); Kendrige Farm ORAN 7 May (BT); SFSP 29 May (CH).

Least Bittern: GV 4 May (PSch, SRo); BSWMA 13 May (JHaa, SMit, PLi, SBa, mob); TBWMA 15-16 May (MGra, SRo, AF); WRNWR 20-31 May (LScr, JS, DWa, mob); 2 CMACS 23 May (JAn); SHSR 27 May (KA); PP 31 May (ME); TBWMA 31 May (DvZ, SRo, BM).

Great Egret: KP 12 Apr (CP, PSch); WRNWR 13 Apr (BNo, KMi); CPP 13 Apr (SK, GB, MSt, mob); TBWMA 17 Apr (SRo); 2 CMACS 21 Apr (KBa); BSWMA 4-11 May (JHaa, KMi, SBa, BNo, mob); PP 5 May (ME); GV 11 May (WTo, JPr, JCLi, DT); WRNWR 16 May (KMcD, AA, LA, LScr); SSF 22 May (KA, BNo, MBu); 6 II 25 May (KFu).

Snowy Egret: max 4 EGR 5 Apr- 29 May (GB, KA, NG, mob); max 3 CPP 13-17 Apr (LTr, SWr, mob); 2 PP 22 Apr (KR).

Little Blue Heron: TBWMA 22 Apr (CP, SeC), *intro*.

Tricolored Heron: TBWMA 21-22 Apr (BM, SRo, mob); Titus Millpond WEST 17-31 May (MBo, SWr, CP, BNi, BST), *intro*.

Cattle Egret: 2 WRNWR 15-20 May (BNo, JHaa, KMi, LScr, mob).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 4 EGR 6 Apr- 31 May (GB, KA, MBo, mob); 2 CPP 13-15 Apr (SK, GB, mob); Saugerties 14 Apr (PSch, RMi); TBWMA 17-18 Apr (SRo); Lents Cove P 19 Apr (SRo); Quassaiac Creek ORAN 20 Apr (BNo, JHaa); BMSP 4 May (RGo, mob); RL 31 May (JAs).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: max 2 VanBurenville Rd ORAN 15 Apr-31 May (JD, BNo, KMcD, mob); 2 EGR 22 Apr (GB, TBu); *intro*.

Glossy Ibis: 5 Route 207 Marsh 20 Apr (BNo); HVRT 28 Apr (M. Nicosia); 2 KP 4 May (WTo); 2 CPP 4 May (JT); 2 BSWMA 10 May (LV, JHaa, KMi); 3 CPP 17 May (MStr); WRNWR 12-21 May (MZe, LScr, RSt, KMcD, BNo, mob), *intro*.

Golden Eagle: Dover 3 Mar (SMit, PLi, PMo); OCBDR 9 Mar (DK); Goshen 13 Mar (KA); Millbrook 17 Mar (DK); Gibson Hill Rd ORAN 2 Apr (JS); FPNC 5 Apr (MD).

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 CPP 5 Mar-31 May (SRo, CR, mob); KP 13 Mar (DWe, DH); Dockside P 27 Mar (CR, KBa); BSWMA 25 Apr (SA); DR 27 Apr (KFe, SF); 2 Hawks Nest 18 May (KMi, MZe, JHaa); WRNWR 20-21 May (LScr, AB, AC).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 2 BMSP 18-31 May (UM, MBK, mob); SFSP 19-26 May (SMit, PLi, LK, mob); Gumaer Falls Rd SULL 25 May (PRI).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: WRNWR 19 May (JG, PA, FP); max 2 PHP 19 May (JAs, DST); BSWMA 25 May (SMit, PLi, SBa, mob); RNC 31 May (GB, KMcGr).

Acadian Flycatcher: max 4 SFSP 11-30 May (GL, MBK, SMit, PLi, mob); BMSP 14-31 May (AC, mob); Dug Hill Rd ULST 17-19 May (MCors, PSch, WTo); max 2 Port Orange Rd ORAN 17-20 May (JHaa, KMi, mob); Gumaer Falls Rd SULL 18-31 May (GB, JG, PD, mob); Quacker L Rd 21 May (CP, BP); Glazier Preserve and Arboretum WEST 25 May (BNi).

Alder Flycatcher: BSWMA 17 May (JHaa, mob); max 5 CIOES 18-28 May (JAs, CP, ASw); 2 SSF 22 May (KA, BNo, MBu);

SGNWR 25 May (KA, mob); 2 OMRLMSP 26-28 May (JCl, GB, SRo); TBWMA 31 May (BM, SRo, DvZ).

White-eyed Vireo: PHP 20 Apr (ASw, DvZ); RSP 2 May (MGro, TW); MC 3 May (GB, BST); Dover 6-18 May (CP, SJ, mob); SFSP 11 May (GL); CIOES 20 May (CP, BP); SSF 22 May (KA, BNo, MBu); BFAS 26-27 May (CP, MRY); BSWMA 31 May (EB).

Purple Martin: max 15 Gibson Hill Rd 9 Apr-31 May (JS, mob); BSWMA 15-17 Apr (JHaa, SA); 20 Glynwood Farm PUTN 17 Apr (CR); max 10 Paradies Lane ULST 25 Apr-31 May (DO, MF, mob); North Highland P PUTN 1 May (DvZ); 4 EMLH 28 Apr (APa); Esopus Meadows P ULST 3 May (DT); PHP 15 May (JAs); SSF 15 May (BF).

Cliff Swallow: 4 Cross River Res 13 Apr Beacon Waterfront 23 Apr (DvZ); max 8 BSWMA 28 Apr-21 May (GL, JHaa, SBa, mob); 12 KP 15 May (PD); 12 CPP 22 May (DvZ, ASw); 4 RR 23 May (SBa); 60 Cross River Res WEST 23 May (GB, TBu).

Marsh Wren: max 3 TBWMA 15 Apr-31 May (SRo, BM, mob); CMACS 21 Apr-31 May (KBA, LG, CR, mob); GV 24 Apr-27 May (RMi, AC, AG, mob); max 6 SHSR 27 Apr-31 May (KFe, SF, mob); max 4 BSWMA 29 Apr-31 May (JHaa, SBa, mob); max 3 MC 10-31 May (BSt, GB, SWr, mob); max 3 WRNWR 15-31 May (JS, JHaa, LScr, mob); 2 II 17-19 May (CR, IR, SeC). Conservative numbers, range continues to expand in Region.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: BSWMA 9-21 May (SBa, SA, MBu, mob); Nuclear L DUTC 10 May (CP, BP); CIOES 12 May (AMac); PHP 15 May (JAs); Ulster P 15 May (DT); BMSP 24 May (MStr); MF 25 May (SO). Low numbers this season.

Swainson's Thrush: max 4 RNC 3-31 May (GB, SO, KMcGr, mob); max 6 BSWMA 4-25 May (SBa, JHaa, KMi, mob); max 4 BMSP 4-31 May (ME, AC, CR, mob); 2 PHP 8-15 May (BM, LMar, mob); SSF 22 May (BNo, MBu, KA).

Brown Thrasher: max 18 PHP 6 Apr-31 May (JAs, CP, mob); max 4 BSWMA 7Apr-31 May (SBa, JHaa, BNo, mob); 2 MC 8 Apr-31 May (DJ, GB, ASw, mob); max 3 Kukok Lane ULST 14 Apr-11 May (MD, FM, mob) max 11 Beechwoods Area SULL 30 May (JHaa).

Evening Grosbeak: max 42 Smith Rd SULL 1-24 Mar (JHaa, SBa, mob); 4 Olivebridge, ULST 1 May (MZi); 2 Willow General Store, ULST 15 May (MLa); Kingston, ULST 5 May

(MD, PSch, mob); West Point, ORAN 5 May (BT).

Common Redpoll: max 21 Aden Rd SULL 1-24 Mar (SSu, JHaa, SBa, GL, mob); Fehr, ULST 1 Mar (RMi); Ulster P 2 Mar (DT); Carmel 2 Mar (EJ); 8 Cross River Res WEST 13 Mar (SCam).

Pine Siskin: max 33 BSWMA 1Mar-19 May (SBa, JHaa, KMi, mob); max 10 Peel Lane DUTC 7 Mar-15 May (SI, CP); max 8 FPNC 24 Apr-9 May (MD); max 7 Gibson Hill Rd ORAN 27 Apr-19 May (JS). Widespread, late in good numbers.

Lapland Longspur: max 3 OCBDR 9-10 Mar (KA, EF); OCBDR 23 Mar (PSch).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Vesper Sparrow: 2 CPP 13 Apr-28 May (NG, SRo, ASw); PHP 14 Apr (JAs); 2 SSF 16 Apr (KMcD, BNo, BF); WRNWR 20 Apr (LScr); Ward Pound Ridge 21 Apr (BNi) OCBDR 22 Apr (BNo); BSWMA 29 Apr (JHaa, SBa, KMi).

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 10 SGNWR 1-31 May (PSch, SA, BNo, mob); 2 OCBDR 4-31 May (BNo, LScr, CCha, MCh); SSF 15-30 May (BF); CPP 24-31 May (LTr, ASw, BSt, mob); 4 Grieg Farm 31 May (DvZ, BM, SRo).

Lincoln's Sparrow: MC 2 May (GB, TBu); CMACS 3 May (KBa); max 2 PHP 4-24 May (JAs, BM, DvZ, mob); BSWMA 11-17 May (JHaa, KMi, PD); OMRLMSP 17 May (SRo, RMa).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Cranberry L P 6 May (MJ); OMRLMSP 25-31 May (CP, JAs, GB, mob); New Paltz 31 May (DO).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R9): OCBDR 23 March (MZe, JHaa, BNo, GB, TBu, mob); Gardiner, Ulster County 31 March (TC, JV), *intro*.

Bobolink: max 7 MF 4-27 May (PLe, ASw, DvZ, mob); max 6 BFAS 7-27 May (BM, SRo, mob); max 25 Drayton Grant P 10 May (LW); max 35 SGNWR 19 May (KFe, SF); 6 RSP 27 May (VH); max 50 Beechwoods Area 30 May (JHaa).

Eastern Meadowlark: 2 Strever Farm 25 Mar-29 May (DK, CP, CV, mob); max 4 OCBDR 22 Mar (DBr); 3 Knapp's View 4 May (CCha, MCh, mob); max 10 SGNWR 29 May (JR, JM, mob); max 7 Beechwoods Area 30 May (JHaa).

Boat-tailed Grackle: MC 2-18 May (GB, TBu, MBo). Rare in Region.

Worm-eating Warbler: SFSP 4-20 May (FP, BSh, LK, mob); max 5 DR 4-31 May (JCi, KSch, GB, mob); max 4 High Banks P 5-19 May (MD, DO, PSch, FM); max 5 Mohonk Preserve 7-27 May (PCa, DWe, mob).

Golden-winged Warbler: RSP 2-11 May (BNi, TK); 2 DR 17-25 May (FP, WTe); max 4 SFSP 4-31 May (SeC, KBa, KMcGr, mob).

Prothonotary Warbler: RSP 6 May (MStr, BStr); LGC 7 May (LScr, JHaa, KMCD, KMi, GB); OINP 13-14 May (RMa, ASw, PCI),

Tennessee Warbler: max 5 RSP 27 Apr- 20 May (MStr, BStr, BNi, mob); max 15 DR 6-31 May (IR, AG, ASw, mob); max 2 BSWMA 5-25 May (SBa, PD, SCam, KBa, mob); max 4 CMACS 10-28 May (DvZ, DK, CP, mob); 2 THMUA 19-24 May (AMac, MK, SCam); 14 High Banks Preserve 19 May (MD).

Nashville Warbler: SFSP 30 Apr- 29 May (MCh, CCh, GL, mob); MC 2-10 May (TJ, GB, BSt, RMa); max 6 PHP 2 May (CP, DvZ, BM, mob); max 4 BSWMA 2-8 May (JHaa, SBa, KMi, mob); Minnewaska SP 7-14 May (KA, SBa, MBu, mob).

Mourning Warbler: TBWMA 17 May (SRo, RMa); 2 SFSP 19-29 May (SMit, PLi, PA, JG); SSF 22 May (KA, BNo, MBu); BFAS 24-27 May (LW, CP, AL); Tymor Forest P 24-28 May (AMac); max 3 BSWMA 24-26 May (SMit, PLi, JHaa, SBa, mob); DR 25 May (MGro, mob); MC 27-30 May (GB, TBu).

Kentucky Warbler: SFSP 3 May (MZc); Phillies Bridge Road 6 May (PCa); PHP 15 May (JAs, CF); Mine Road 19 May (JG, PA); RNC 21 May (GB, TBu).

Hooded Warbler: max 13 DR 29 Apr- 31 May (AW, ME, BNo, mob); max 6 SFSP 1-31 May (MZc, CCh, SCam, mob); MC 2 May (TJ, GB); 2 BSWMA 4 May (JHaa, JCl, mob); max 9 Dover 5-18 May (CP, BP, DK, mob); max 11 Minnewaska SP 7-31 May (SBa, KA, NM, AL, mob); 7 Pawling Nature Reserve 11 May (KH, BB, mob); Ferncliff Forest 14 May (BM, DvZ, ASw, SRo); 2 MF 18-20 May (EG, SWr, LTr, SK).

Cape May Warbler: max 3 BSWMA 4-26 May (JHaa, GB, CMc, KMCD, mob); max 5 LGC 7-19 May (KMCD, JHaa, KMi, MZe, mob); max 3 DR 9-18 May (KSch, GB, GL,

mob); max 8 OINP 13-16 May (CR, ASw, LTr, mob); 2 RSP 15-18 May (MSt, mob); 2 Gibson Hill Road 19-30 May (JS).

Cerulean Warbler: max 6 BSWMA 26 Apr- 31 May (JHaa, SBa, KMi, mob); max 7 SFSP 30 Apr- 31 May (GB, MZe, KBa, SCam, mob); max 18 DR 2-31 May (GL, CShe, KMcGr, mob); 4 Mohonk Preserve 7 May (DWe); 2 TBWMA 9 May (BM, SRo, AF).

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 3 RNC 8-22 May (SO, PCI, GB); BSWMA 8-18 May (JHaa, SBa, LV, mob); max 6 Ferncliff Forest 14-17 May (ASw, DvZ, BM, mob); GV 15-19 May (PP, PSch, KMcGa, mob); 2 CPP 16 May (KBa, LTr, mob); max 4 DR 18 May (ASw, CR, KMcGr, mob); max 5 THMUA (JAs, AMac, BM, mob).

Yellow-throated Warbler: RNC 6-7 May (KMcGr, PCI), only report.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER: BSWMA 4 May (CMc, TBu, GB). First Sullivan County record, *intro*.

Canada Warbler: max 3 BSWMA 4-26 May (JHaa, KMi, KMCD, mob); max 5 LGC 7-19 May (KMi, KMCD, JHaa, mob); max 3 DR 9-18 May (ME, GL, mob); max 8 OINP 13-16 May (CR, ASw, LTr, mob); 2 RSP 15-18 May (MSt, mob).

Wilson's Warbler: max 5 BSWMA 17 Apr-27 May (BNo, SBa, JHaa, mob); max 3 CPP 4-16 May (NZ, KBa, LG, mob); 2 Kukok Lane (MD, ASC); GV 13-14 May (PSch, AG); 2 OINP 14-15 May (SK, KMcGr, SCam). Early date, widespread reports.

SUMMER TANAGER (R9): Bloomingburg, SULL 9 May (WAmthor) second county record, *intro*; DR 31 May (AKopitov, YHoffman).

WESTERN TANAGER: Jeffersonville, SULL 28 May (MCormier), first county record, photos, *intro*.

Blue Grosbeak: MC 6 May (BSh, GB, TBu).

ADDENDUM FOR 2018

SEASIDE SPARROW (R9): BSWMA 5 May 2018 (C. Chappell, ph, vid), first SULL record.

REGION 10—MARINE

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Temp	Central Park			Islip		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Mar	41.7°	42.5°	-0.8°	38.7°	39.3°	-0.6°
Apr	55.4°	53.0°	+2.4°	51.9°	49.1°	+2.8°
May	62.2°	62.4°	-0.2°	59.8°	58.6°	+1.2°

Precip	Central Park			Islip		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Mar	3.87"	4.36"	-0.49"	3.19"	4.44"	-1.25"
Apr	4.55"	4.50"	+0.05"	5.95"	4.34"	+1.61"
May	6.82"	4.19"	+2.63"	5.05"	3.78"	+1.27"

If I had to summarize the spring of 2019 in one adjective, it would be “Texan”. However, that would fail to capture the interesting finch flight leftovers from the prior winter, and the new peak season for mega shorebirds.

March 2019 was slightly colder and drier than average, while April and May were warmer and wetter, by 2.8° in Islip April and 2.63" in Central Park in May. The largest snowfall during this period was the evening of 3 March into the next morning, which accumulated to several inches along the North Shore of Long Island but was distinctly lesser elsewhere. The relative lack of snowfall this March was a welcome relief from the previous March, in which there was at least one significant snowstorm each week. A slingshot event on 21 April, per notes from Patricia Lindsay, brought a variety of migrants north and east rapidly, including some southern species that otherwise would not have travelled so far.

Following an autumn that brought a large population of Evening Grosbeaks south, it was not surprising that a few more individuals of that species were sighted into spring. The most notable was a single male that was found in Riverside Park on the Upper West side on 15 December, 2018, and continued there for nearly a third of the year—all the way through 28 March, 2019. Several transient grosbeaks were seen as well, including a cooperative bird in Prospect Park in mid-April and several disparate feeder visitors in mid-May. The other interesting finch observed in this period was a more expected irruptive, the Red Crossbill. Despite a poor southbound flight in the latter half of 2018, a flock was discovered along the Paumanok Trail near Upton, Suffolk County, in late March. One pair was seen gathering nesting material and repeatedly visiting a nest site. Reports continued into mid-April, but the success of the nesting attempt was not confirmed. Like Pine Siskins, which were also seen moving late through this period, Red Crossbill is known for unexpected nesting activity, even well south of its expected range.

While the beginning of spring is traditionally associated with movements of common birds, a few surprises appeared before the main Neotropical waves. The first was a **Western Tanager** that began visiting a feeder in Bohemia in late March. This bird may well have been displaced for some time, recently having abandoned its makeshift wintering territory that was somewhere else in our general region. The same may have happened to a Dickcissel that was found singing in a highly urban setting a half mile west of Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Forest Hills, Queens, on 6 April.

It would be a stretch to call the push of Black Vultures into Region 10 “Texan”, but for Long Island birders it felt like it. All Region 10 counties got a healthy dose of sightings, even though sightings are usually concentrated to Richmond, New York, the Bronx, and less frequently western Brooklyn and Queens. In 2016, the only eBird record east of Queens was an October migrant along the barrier beach in Suffolk. In 2017, there were some single Black Vulture sightings around central Nassau County and a few small groups along the North Fork. In 2018, the Riverhead roost was discovered, but outside of the Peconic River area, there were only two other sight records in Central Suffolk. This spring, the East End had records as far as Orient on the North Fork and Springs on the South Fork, and several individuals were seen over western Nassau and Queens in early April. A mid-May record from Charles Memorial Park in Queens broke this pattern, and Flushing Meadows Corona Park produced a high count of four in one visit. Hawkwatching from Alley Pond in Queens produced this species on many occasions in April, with up to three seen at once.

In mid-April, the Texan theme was gaining ground. Central Park is well-visited and thus it rarely records new species for its park list, but a **White-winged Dove** found in mid-April was an exception. Nickerson Beach in Nassau had a cooperative **Black-necked Stilt** around this time. **White-faced Ibis** began showing up at Timber Point and adjacent Great River sites in Suffolk as well, and were seen irregularly throughout the entire period. Repeated visits by local birders with cameras proved there were at least four individuals (per Shai Mitra’s notes) around. A group of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** was observed in Nassau County beginning on 21 May; originally four were seen at Cow Meadow, but the group moved between that site, the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, Nickerson Beach, and the Ocean Parkway/Bay Parkway cloverleaf at Jones Beach West End. During that time the flock swelled to twelve individuals, as counted in the air at the Jones Beach cloverleaf on 3 June, just past this report’s coverage period. That was a new high count for New York State. Everything is bigger in Nassau (sic). This incursion follows their recently-minted trend of northeastern spring dispersal, something akin to what Cave Swallows suddenly began doing in late autumn.

The writers of the Regional reports are tasked with determining arrival dates for a select number of species that have been tracked in a separate report through the years. The criteria for determining the true arrival is somewhat subjective, but my arrival dates were consistently earlier than the 30-year average, usually on the

order of a few days. One individual Swainson's Thrush beat its average arrival by two weeks. The only notable exception to this trend was Black Tern, which went unreported in Region 10 until 11 days after its average arrival of 12 May. The shift forward in arrival dates of our migrants is well-studied and better described elsewhere, and the connection to rising temperatures in the eastern United States will be only mentioned briefly now; not that it isn't important, rather it will probably be the most profound trend mentioned in any *Kingbird* Regional narrative for the next century.

In addition to earlier arrivals, certain species have continued trends of occurring more frequently. Common Ravens and southern passerines such as Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, and Yellow-throated and Prothonotary Warblers were widely encountered across the Region this season.

May brought some rarity highlights. For shorebirds, a Wilson's Phalarope on 25 May at Nickerson Beach was notable, especially as this species is recorded with much lower frequency in Nassau County than its neighbor counties. Another highlight was a **Wilson's Plover** that spent seven days around Cupsogue Beach starting on 15 May. This is a species that tends not to linger, so many birders were thrilled with a Wilson's Plover that fit their schedule. An offshore surveying vessel picked up a **South Polar Skua** on 24 May. A **Mississippi Kite** was observed moving across Brooklyn on 20 May. Jamaica Bay had a wonderful **Sage Thrasher** that cooperated in the South Garden over two days in mid-May. The bird was the fifth record for New York State, and the first in 46 years. This record was not diminished, but rather made more extraordinary, when New York's *sixth* Sage Thrasher record occurred 13 days later at Watch Hill on Fire Island.

Another highly celebrated New York City find this spring was a **Burrowing Owl** at Big Egg Marsh. The bird was found by Jennifer Kepler perching on poles in a small construction area right in the parking lot from its discovery in the late afternoon of 16 May through nightfall, when it was observed flying off into the marsh. Substantial efforts to relocate the bird the following morning, once its access had been better detailed, did not produce any further sightings. Interestingly, five days prior, a Burrowing Owl was photographed in central Quebec, about 730 miles north of Queens. It is worth noting that the western populations of Burrowing Owl, such as the two aforementioned vagrant individuals, breed at comparable latitudes near the Canadian border in the Great Plains. With only six prior records of Burrowing Owl in New York State and Sage Thrashers verging on routine, it is hard to imagine that there was an even greater rarity this season, albeit one that broke the Texan mold.

After Pat Lindsay's stellar find of a Wood Sandpiper amongst a small group of shorebirds at the Timber Point Golf Course last April, one may have perceived a perverse inevitability when she found a **Common Greenshank** at the same location and under the same circumstances on 5 May. Given that Common Greenshank had only been recorded in the Lower 48 three times previously (in California, Massachusetts, and New Jersey—see article elsewhere in the present issue), and that the Great River shorebird spots do not seem to be stopover sites

for any great volume of shorebirds, this latest find seems even more spectacular. Both this bird and the Wood Sandpiper spent most of their stays feeding at the same ephemeral puddle on the green itself, along with yellowlegs and other common shorebirds. The weather was particularly unpleasant for migration, with fits of rain and a considerable east wind. It is worth noting that Common Greenshank, like Wood Sandpiper and several other Old World shorebirds, has also been recorded in the Lesser Antilles and Bermuda. Even when migrating along the wrong continent, these species tend to keep a similar pace, so we know when to look for next year's Great River headliner. The question is: why there?

298 species were reported in the Region this spring, one fewer than last spring.

The editors of Region 10 note with sadness the passing of Robert G. May on 8 April 2019. Dave Klauber, long-time friend of Bob's contributed the following:

Bob was a familiar face to many New York birders over the last four decades, especially in the Long Island area. He co-led field trips for Huntington Audubon for 10 years, and continued to lead big days and participate in Christmas counts for many years afterwards. Bob was born in Brockton, Massachusetts and, although he resided in New York for most of his adult life, never lost his strong Massachusetts accent. One day years ago, Bob left a message on the answering machine to meet him at the hawk watch. His accent was interpreted by my mother to say Bob would meet me at the 'hog wash'—seriously.

He was a teacher and a natural educator which carried through to birding. Many a new birder was encouraged and educated through birding outings with Bob. He was an excellent mentor, a passionate birder and lister, and chased birds all over the region and country. His memory was excellent. Bob would run into a birder in the field and would remember their name and where they had met from years earlier. You could not want a better birding buddy than Bob—always good-natured and easy going no matter what the circumstances. He will be deeply missed by those who knew him.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APEC – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BBrP** – Brooklyn Bridge P, KING; **BBYC** – Bellport Bay Yacht Club, SUFF; **BNL** – Brookhaven Nat'l Lab, Upton, SUFF; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CMP** – Cow Meadow P, NASS; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CRSP** – Connetquot Ri SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **DR** – Dune Rd, CCP to Shinn, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **FWP** – Fort Washington P, NEWY; **GwC** – Greenwood Cemetery, KING; **HP** – Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **Mon** – Montauk, T of

East Hampton, SUFF; **MPB** – Marine P Brooklyn, KING; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **NYBG** – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RI** – Randall's I, NEWY; **Riv** – Riverhead, SUFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Jacob Riis P, QUEE; **SC** – Santapogue Creek, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **SPP** – Southards Pd P, West Babylon, SUFF; **TP** – Timber Point Golf Course and marinas, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **WPP** – Wolfe's Pd P, RICH.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

4, CMP, 21 May (JLa, mob), likely same flock also seen at JBWE and OMNSA thru June, flock incr to 12 at JBWE by 3 Jun, *intro*.

Snow Goose: max 600, JBWR, 17 Mar (SSi).

Barnacle Goose: Cherry Creek Golf Course, SUFF, 1 Mar (R&G Dean), cont from winter.

Cackling Goose: VCP, 17-39 Mar (mob); Arthur Hendrickson P, NASS thru 9 Mar (mob); Caumsett SP, SUFF, 27 Mar (SF, KFe); HP, 3 Mar (ACo).

Tundra Swan: 2, Georgica Pd, SUFF, thru 9 Mar (mob).

Eurasian Wigeon: MPB, thru 27 Mar (mob); Bush Terminal Piers Pk, KING, thru 8 Apr (mob).

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal: SC, thru 6 Apr (PMo, mob)

Redhead: max 54, Avon L, SUFF, 9 Mar (mob), declining in Region but increasing over whole range.

Harlequin Duck: dep PL, 14 Apr (A. Milillo, C. Braut); 2 SPCP, 14-24 Mar (KCa).

Bufflehead: max 600, TP, SUFF, 14 Apr (SSM), uncommon in large flocks.

Wild Turkey: 2, Ft Tryon Pk, NEWY, 11-17 Apr (mob), unusual loc; 2, IHP, 13 Apr (D. Karlson), likely same pair as Ft Tryon; 6, along Long Island Expwy in Syosset, NASS, 16 Mar (JGa), unusual loc.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: CP, 14 Apr (JDj, mob), first for New York County.

Common Nighthawk: first rep 19 Apr IHP; many widespread reports throughout May, but all single birds except max 4 Wildwood SP SUFF 22 May (C. Fernandes).

Chuck-will's-widow: arr Quogue, SUFF, 16 May (V. Glasser); CP, 18 May (mob).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: migrants singing in 3 urban neighborhoods, Jackson Heights, QUEE, 4 May (J.Birne); Clinton Hill, KING,

6 May (N. Mindos); Highbridge Park, NEWY, 10 May (AF), max 12, Nap, 26 May (AnW).

RAILS-LARIDS

Sora: Mon, 14-30 Apr (CG, TS); 2, Oakwood Bch, RICH, 25 Apr-19 May (mob).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Nap, 27-31 May (mob), unusual upland habitat.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: NB, 21 Apr-7 May (S. Walter, mob).

American Golden-Plover: NB, 20-24 Apr (mob), only report.

WILSON'S PLOVER: CCP, 15-21 May (R. Erin, reported by Nick Giordano; mob).

Piping Plover: max 39, JBWE, 19 Apr (M. Holquist).

Western Sandpiper (Spring): 3, Shinn, 30 Apr (mob).

Spotted Sandpiper: 21 FKP 8 May (RG), breeding birds.

COMMON GREENSHANK: TP, SUFF 5-6 May (PJL, mob), 1st state record, *intro*.

Wilson's Phalarope: NB, 25 May (mob), rarely encountered in Nassau.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: pelagic coordinates 38.882, -73.073, 24 May (J.Loch), rarely sought or encountered in spring.

Razorbill: PlumbB, 1 Mar (T. Preston); from ferry off Coney Island, KING, 3 Mar (JMa); dep 2, RMSP 30 May (SF, KFe), late.

Black-legged Kittiwake: imm JBWE, 11 Mar (G. Farley).

Black-headed Gull: Georgica Pd, SUFF, 10 Mar (DF); Conscience Bay, SUFF, 13 Mar (M. Schrimp), Bush Terminal Piers and area, KING, thru 26 Mar (mob).

Little Gull: RP, 12 May (SA).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 61, RMSP, 5 May (PJL, SSM).

Glaucous Gull: RI, 13 Mar (B. Sadock), scarce in NYC; RI, 19 Apr (D. Barrett).

Gull-billed Tern: arr JBWR, 17 May (R.Bate).

Black Tern: arr NB, 23-26 May (JGa, mob), 11 days later than 30y avg.

ARCTIC TERN (R10): NB, 27 May-9 Jun (SSM, PJL; mob), slightly early at reliable (since ~2014) site.

LOONS- WOODPECKERS

PACIFIC LOON: Oyster Bay Marine Center, 3 Feb thru 3 Mar (mob); RMSP, 30 May (KFe, mob).

Sooty Shearwater: singles CCP 19 May, pelagic 24 May, RMSP 29 and 30 May, 10 Napeague 26 May; very low numbers this season.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: off shore coordinates 39.882, -73.073 24 May (J. Loch), with note that >100 seen earlier on same track by other obs, only report.

Northern Gannet: max 4,400, BPt, 17 Mar (L. Kahle).

American Bittern: CP, 31 Mar-15 May (mob), unusual loc, likely more than one ind; Cunningham Pk, QUEE, 14 Apr (mob), unusual loc; Pier 44 Waterfront Garden, KING, 2 May (JMa, R. Fleming), unusual loc; SPP, 5 May (PMo).

Least Bittern: Mon, 30 Apr (TS).

Little Blue Heron: Hillview Res, BRON, 24 Apr (SCa), unusual loc.

Tricolored Heron: 2, PBP, 16-20 May (mob), unusual loc.

Cattle Egret: 2, Miller Field, RICH, 22-30 Apr, (mob); 2, Oakwood Bch, RICH, 5-13 May (mob), likely same birds as Miller; BBYC, 19 May (V. Vila)

Glossy Ibis: max 114, HSP, 14 May (J. Watson)

WHITE-FACED IBIS: TP, SUFF, 15 Apr (SSM, KT, KFe), distinct indiv addl to following obs; 3, HSP, 30 Apr-20 May (mob), 1-2 seen on any given day.

Black Vulture: max 6, NYBG, 25 Apr (J. Schuler), elevated sightings and counts this year.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Ceasar's Bay Bazaar, 20 May (ShB); GwC, 20 May (SSi, JMa), 20 minutes after ShB's sighting and likely same bird.

Red-shouldered Hawk: nest CRSP, 3 yg, thru; pr photographed in Patchogue, SUFF 3 May (fide M. Cooper), poss breeders?

Rough-legged Hawk: EPCAL, thru 18 Mar (R. Shea).

Eastern Screech-Owl: IHP, thru 18 Apr (mob), unusual loc.

Snowy Owl: BPt, thru 20 Mar (mob); JBWR, thru 7 Apr (mob); JBWE, thru 12 Mar; DR, thru 16 Mar (mob); Great Gull Is, 13 Apr (P. Paton), unusual loc.

BURROWING OWL: Big Egg Marsh, QUEE, 16 May (J. Kepler, mob), 7th state record; *intro*.

Short-eared Owl: FBF, 11 Mar (ShB).

Red-headed Woodpecker: JBWE, 24 Apr (SCa); Lido Passive Preserve, NASS, 25 Apr (SMe); PP, 29 Apr (RCR); Robert Cushman CP, SUFF, 8 May thru summer; nest (TS, mob); CRSP, 11 May thru summer, appeared to be feeding y by one obs but no confirmed breeding (mob); Speonk, SUFF, 15 May (E. Schwinn); JBWR, 17 May (D. Lichter, L. Meyers); 4, BNL, 23 May (E. Lewis); SUFF 2, HSP, 25 May (A. Blanchard).

FLYCATCHERS-LONGSPURS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Fire Island Pines, SUFF, 26 May (V. Witmer), scarce on barrier beaches in spring.

Least Flycatcher: max 30, CP, 16 May (L. Musher).

Common Raven: many records across Region, increasing.

Cliff Swallow: max 6 at colony, APEC, 23 May (BF, mob), rare R10 breeder away from BRON.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH (R10): PP, 24 May (RyM). CP, 28-30 May (mob).

Swainson's Thrush: arr Mattituck residence, 17 Apr (JSep), 2 weeks earlier than 30y avg.

SAGE THRASHER: JBWR, 17-18 May (CF, mob), 5th state record; Watch Hill, SUFF, 31 May (D. Swamback), 6th state record, *intro*.

Evening Grosbeak: all singles; Riverside Pk, NEWY, winter thru 28 Mar (mob); PP, 17 Apr (mob); f Riv residence, SUFF, 23 Apr (MLL, RA); Riv residence, SUFF, 7 May (C. Montalbano); CP, 8 May (RBA); Sag Harbor residence, SUFF, 12 May (CG).

Common Redpoll: 1 GwC, 11-18 Mar (mob).

Red Crossbill: various numbers 25 Mar thru, Robert Cushman CP, SUFF (K. Klecan, mob), max at least 28 24 May, breeding behavior observed but not confirmed, last 10 Jun (K. Klecan).

Pine Siskin: dep, CP, 29 May (E. Schumann, A. Burke, M. Klein).

Lapland Longspur: dep NB, thru 27 Mar, (mob).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Quogue, SUFF, winter thru 29 Mar (mob).

Lark Sparrow: East Hampton property, SUFF, winter thru 4 Mar (D. Rogers).

Savannah Sparrow: flock of 23 Suff Co Farm and Environmental Center 6 May (PJL), large number of migrs; 42 FKP 8 May (JRG), breeding; 3 EPCAL 24 May and 2 here 31 May prob breeders.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 31 FKP 8 May (JRG), known breeding site; 21 EPCAL 24 May (JSep), max for this site and adjacent Calverton grasslands, known breeding area.

Nelson's Sparrow: marsh near Oceanside, NASS, 29 May (A. Koccek), banded and rarely detected in spring in R10.

Song Sparrow: max 403, JBWE, 25 Mar (EB), exceptional count.

Yellow-breasted Chat: CP, 18 May, (mob); CP, 26 May (EG, DBa).

Eastern Meadowlark: BBrP, 25 Mar (H. Wolf), unusual loc.

Baltimore Oriole: max 60, CP, 16 May (L. Musher).

Boat-tailed Grackle: max 350, JBWR, 17 Mar (D. Lichter).

Worm-eating Warbler: max 4, PP, 2 May (P. Linden-Brams).

Golden-winged Warbler: Clove Lakes Pk, RICH, 29 Apr (CBa, mob); CP, 30 Apr-2 May (mob); FP, 5-7 May (mob).

Black-and-white Warbler: max 125, CP, 16 May (L. Musher).

Prothonotary Warbler: many records across Region, particularly to the west, increasing.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: CP, 16 May (BVD, mob).

Orange-crowned Warbler: MPB, 20 Mar (anon); W Babylon residence, 21 Mar (J. Christopher); SPP, 13 Apr (PMo); PP, 25 Apr (JMa); CP, 25 Apr-16 May (mob), likely multiple ind; RMSP, 4 May (TD, PMo).

Mourning Warbler: max 5, CP, 29 May (A. Burke).

Kentucky Warbler: Jones Pd, Calverton SUFF 29 Apr (K. Klecan); PP, 2 May (mob); NYBG, 4 May (D. Rodriguez); CP, 7-9 May (mob); FP, 9 May (E. Miller); JBWR, 13 May (P. Henson); Greentree Estate, NASS, 16 May (SP); APP, 16-21 May (CeC, EB); Laurel Hollow, NASS, 18 May (R. Taylor); PP, 25 May (mob); FP, 26 May (CF).

Cerulean Warbler: Willowbrook Pk, RICH, 2 May (JRG); PP, 2-6 May (mob); FP, 2-5 May (CF, SA, MN); CP, 3-8 May (mob), likely multiple inds; CVP, 4 May (AxW); Greentree Estate, NASS, 4 May (SP), scarce east of Queens; SPP, 4-8 May (mob), scarce east of Queens.

Yellow-throated Warbler: many records across Region, particularly to the west, increasing.

Summer Tanager: many records across Region, particularly to the west, increasing.

WESTERN TANAGER: Bohemia residence, SUFF, thru 26 Mar (R. Brenn).

Blue Grosbeak: numerous reports of 1-2 birds (migrs) from all counties 21 Apr-19 May; 2 FKP 20 May, known breeding loc; 2 (m & f) Preston Pds 29 May thru, and 1-3 birds VOR near EPCAL 24 May thru, suspected breeders at these known sites in Calverton.

Dickcissel: OMNSA, thru 5 Mar (mob); Forest Hills, QUEE, 6 Apr (RBA), bizarre record of bird singing in urban residential area; JBWE, 25 May (GK).



STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; alt – alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

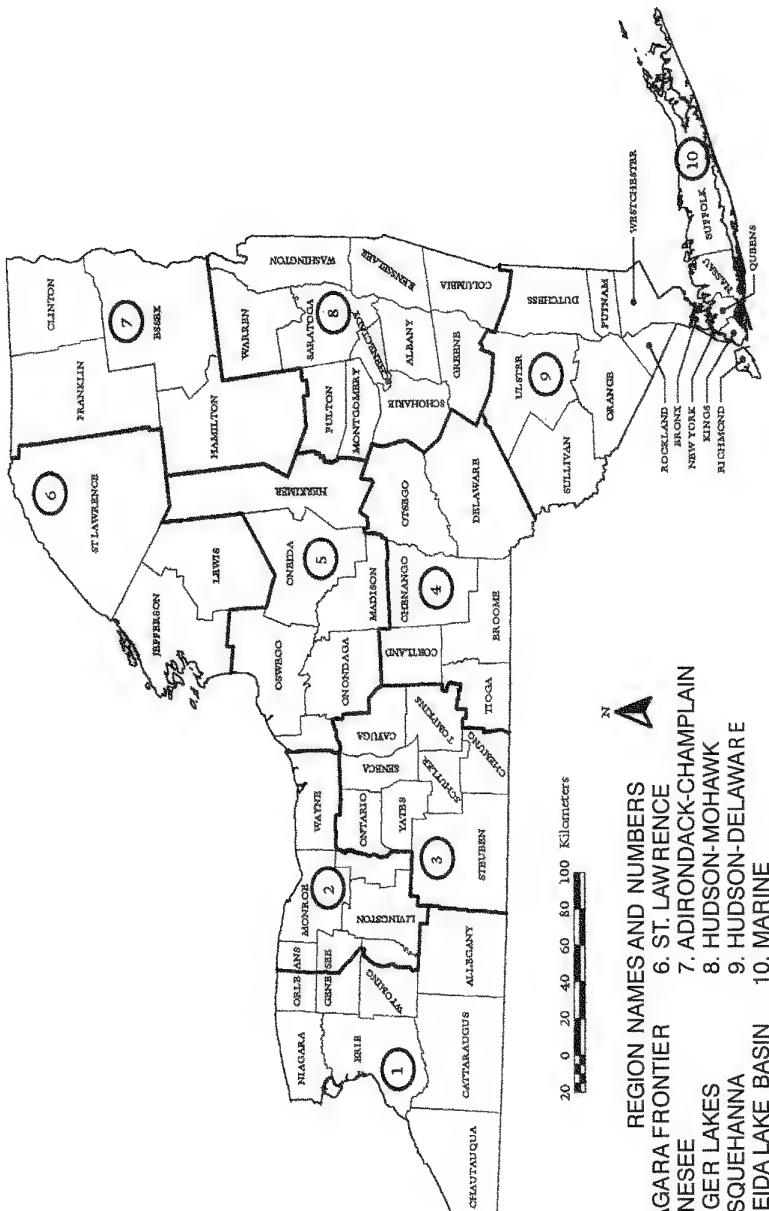
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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Front Cover – Western Kingbird, Croton Point, *Westchester*, 24 Aug 2019, © Bob Lewis.

Back Cover – Gray Kingbird, Smith Point CP, *Suffolk*, 21 Jul 2019, © Camron Robertson.

NESTING BEHAVIOR BY YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS IN MIDDLETOWN, ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK

Joyce M. Depew
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On 15 April, 2019 I invited my eight-year-old grandson, Benjamin Depew, to come birding with me since he was on spring vacation from school. We have been doing this kind of activity a couple of times a year since he was four years old. Ben has shown rapid growth in his skills observing wildlife.

It was a typical spring day in rural Orange County near Middletown, NY, which is an agricultural and residential region that includes many acres of fields, woodland, and swamp. We started out on Prosperous Valley Rd. near Moonbeams Wildlife Sanctuary to eventually connect to Vanburenville Rd. The temperature was around 65° F, and partly sunny. April's erratic temperatures had been swinging between 30° to warm temps of 79°. Precipitation this year had been well above average with the land and waterways saturated. Since all trees were devoid of foliage it made roadside birding quite easy.

Ben was observing through his window as we traveled on Vanburenville Rd. Suddenly excited, he proclaimed that he had just seen a bird that he believed to be a Green Heron. I pulled off the road and backed up to the driveway of a home which had a small pond in the yard. Instead of seeing a Green Heron at the pond, I discovered it was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)! I explained to Ben that this was a "record" and rare bird for Orange County. We were both thrilled! I took photographs and reported it on the "WhatsApp" alert for other Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club members to be notified in hopes that some others would get to see this bird while it was still present. As a result, other birders arrived later on and were able to see it. At that time there was only one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron seen. This was the third occurrence of the species recorded in Orange County by Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club members, according to Kenneth McDermott.

Exactly one week later on 22 April, bird club members Scott Baldinger and Bill Fiero reported that there were two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at the same location on Vanburenville Rd. Scott put out the notice to our Edgar Mearns Bird Club on the "WhatsApp" alert. Club member Ken McDermott also joined Scott and Bill in their observations of courtship displays, these displays indicating the presence of both a male and a female. As a side note, the sex of these herons is difficult to determine if mating behavior is not observed. (Unfortunately, I wasn't able to see these mating displays but observed the two herons roosting later in the afternoon).

I continued observing the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons a few times per week from the road until, by chance, at the end of April, I met the owner of the property. She was formerly an active birder, named Eleanor Hajas. She granted me permission to enter her property in order to safely observe the herons from a location closer to them. By this time, the herons were spending more time in the adjacent swamp than in the pond. The swamp is bordered on one side by a stone wall on Eleanor's property, ending on Vanburenville Rd. and located about 30 feet from the pond where the first heron was originally discovered. The tree leaves and swamp grasses were maturing rapidly and now the herons were able to hide more effectively than in mid-April. During foraging they would hunt prey either from tree limbs that leaned close to water, or by walking along edges of the swamp. Sometimes they would hunt prey in the pond towards the early evening.

On 18 May, two teams of birders from the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club were able to document the sighting of the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons during our Break 100 Competition. We added this to our rare bird records in our club's Orange County data. During this month these herons seemed to establish a routine of actively foraging in early morning around 7:30 a.m. and early evening around 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., whereas, in April, they could be seen at various times of the day.

Behavioral observations indicated that one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was more wary than the other. On a few occasions one would be seen heading toward the pond confidently and the other lagging behind, acting more cautious. On one particular evening the cautious heron got frightened when it saw me and quickly exited to the swamp. The first heron casually followed behind but didn't appear as upset as the other. This behavior was also noticed by Eleanor Hajas, as she was watching the two herons together from her window. We both speculated on which sex was likely to be more wary!

On 18 June I witnessed the pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons engaged in nest-building. The tree they selected was a white oak that was leaning over the swamp about fifty yards in from Vanburenville Rd. I happened to be in the swamp a few yards from the oak tree and the herons were unaware of me this time. The limb they chose was approximately 25 to 30 feet above the water. Both herons were stripping twigs from the tree and one was placing them on the limb which would hold the nest. They made croaking-type vocalizations to each other during this activity. I was able to photograph the nest building which shows one heron with a twig in its bill. A few days later I returned to find a completed nest in the oak tree and photographed it. This nest had an irregular shape. I've estimated its size at about 15 to 18 inches long. It didn't appear to be lined with any other material and was not very deep. The photos associated with this article may be found in the color centerfold on page 364.

On 21 June, at 6:15 p.m., I observed one Yellow-crowned Night Heron coming out of the swamp to the pond in Eleanor's yard. I felt compelled to hide

behind a tree because the heron was acting suspicious when I pulled into the driveway. When it realized that I was not a threat, it continued to walk slowly around the pond. I noticed that it preferred to hunt in the shadowed water of the pond while the sun was setting. A while later, it poised itself, intently peering into the water and snapped up a very large crayfish!

After the nest was built, I did not observe any change in the birds' feeding habits or other behaviors. I checked the nest location several times and there was no evidence that it was being used. Research indicates that "Yellow-crowned Night-Herons breed once a year, from early spring to early summer." (www.biokids.umich.edu>Critter Catalog, Subject: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), section subtitle: "How do they reproduce?" category "Mating Systems"). According to this piece of information, mating season was likely to be over and too late for them to produce offspring.

By mid-July our weather was hot and very humid with temperatures ranging from 78° to a high of 98°. I curtailed some of my observations due to the heat and returned there 23 July. The water levels in both the pond and the swamp had receded about 12 to 14 inches in depth since the pattern of frequent rainy days had ceased. I began to think that perhaps there wasn't enough food for the herons in this location. However, in spite of receding water levels, there was still a significant amount of water for aquatic animals to survive in both the pond and swamp. I observed turtles, small fishes, frogs, and a resident muskrat in the swamp going about its daily routine. Lack of food could not have been the issue. Throughout this time period the herons did not appear in either the swamp or pond and I didn't hear their vocalizations as I had in the past months. I continued my visits every week in August and have concluded that sometime after 8 July these herons must have relocated from the Vanburenville Rd. location and perhaps had begun to migrate since breeding season was over.

During my five months of observation of the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on Vanburenville Rd., I successfully photographed one or both of the birds fourteen times between 15 April and 8 July, 2019. I have submitted photographs on my reports to eBird. The location is listed as Swamp Location or Vanburenville Rd., Orange County, NY.

Many thanks to my grandson Benjamin Depew for his keen observance which resulted in the discovery of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Orange County, and to Eleanor Hajas for her support of my study, her observations, and access to her property. Finally, much appreciation goes to Scott Baldinger, William Fiero, and Kenneth McDermott for their contributions of experienced observations and record keeping included in this report.

BREEDING BETWEEN CLAY-COLORED AND CHIPPING SPARROWS IN A SYRACUSE, NEW YORK CEMETERY

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On the morning of 21 May, 2019, I began an exciting summer-long journey, bearing witness to the nesting of a female Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) paired with a male Clay-colored Sparrow (*S. pallida*). This was a special opportunity to study and document the full process including territory establishment, courtship, nesting, and raising of the offspring. Would they be successful?

It all started serendipitously during a regular visit to Oakwood Cemetery when I heard a Clay-colored Sparrow singing its usual buzzy song, a first for me at the site and scarce generally in New York. Oakwood is an old (c.1859), large (160 acre), hilly, urban cemetery in Syracuse, NY. Habitat is typical of old cemeteries in the area, with many large trees, grassy lawns, and patches of scattered scrubby vegetation. It is mowed, but not too often, and is never fertilized, nor are herbicides or pesticides used on the property. I was excited to get a new (and unusual) bird for my local patch and went back in the evening to see if it was still there. It was, and it was still singing. This time, however, it was doing an alternate buzzy song comprised of different tones ending on an impossibly low note that seemed incredible coming from such a small bird. Consulting the Sibley app on my mobile device, I was surprised to discover the song was not included there. As the story continued to unfold, it turned out that wasn't the only special thing happening. I spent the next two months observing, making detailed field notes and sketches, and documenting the bird with audio recordings and photography.

During the first few days following discovery I located the Clay-colored in four adjacent sections of the cemetery, covering about six acres. But after the first week or so, all activity was confined to one area. It had chosen a territory! Would it find a mate? The Clay-colored Sparrow advertised its presence by singing from eight different boundary trees—maple, beech, oak, tulip, ash, spruce, and balsam fir—defining an area of roughly .6 acres. Its favorite perch was a bare branch 20' up the 65' high by 45' diameter Norway spruce but soon came to sing from interior evergreen bushes and monuments as well, often just after leaving the nest bush. The spruce however was always the go-to spot.

As June arrived, I realized migration was likely over and another Clay-colored had not found the first. Upstate NY is at the eastern edge of the species' range and the species is thinly distributed even in good habitat. Wondering how long the bird would stay, things suddenly got very exciting when on 5 June it was seen feeding a female Chipping Sparrow and presenting it with tiny sticks. Courtship! It had found a mate. The Clay-colored continued singing and

vigorously chased other Chipping Sparrows from the territory. On 9 June I confirmed nest building in the upper third of a 5' 6" high by 36" wide evergreen bush, both birds entering and leaving the spot frequently and sometimes together. This is somewhat lower than Chipping Sparrow nests I've seen in the past, but it is higher than what might have been chosen by a female Clay-colored, which average only 10-12" from the ground (Grant and Knapton 2012).



Male Clay-colored Sparrow singing from his favorite perch (© Deborah Dohne, 2020).

The area near the nest site is one of the busier areas of the cemetery, with both car and pedestrian traffic during the day. My routine was to alter days where I would conduct brief 'check-in' visits with longer observations. For these I would sit low to the ground, always in the same position under a distant tree. It seemed both birds were used to my presence, recognized me (and my dog), and carried on with their activities while we were there. However, if other people came close the birds would stop all activity, freeze, hide, or go high up in nearby trees. The nest was placed in a well-concealed thick cluster of needles on the outer extremity of the shrub. By mid June food-carrying and intense activity at the site confirmed that the eggs had hatched and young were being fed. Suddenly a second Chipping Sparrow was seen carrying food to the nest—a helper. Research confirmed that cooperative breeding has been observed in the species (Middleton and Prescott 1989), with other Chippies sometimes pitching in with parental tasks, possibly family members, unpaired birds, or failed nesters. It is also possible that the second Chipping Sparrow was a rival

male and that its investment reflected some possibility that one or more of the offspring were its own, as was suspected in a somewhat similar scenario involving Cerulean Warblers and a Northern Parula in Suffolk County in 1994 (Lindsay and Vezo 1995). Cooperative behavior has not been reported for Clay-colored (Grant and Knapton 2012), and indeed the Clay-colored Sparrow often chased the helper Chipping, which was always hyper-alert and had its crown raised. It would land on a nearby monument, hop all compass points, and make a mad dash for the nest to deliver food before the Clay-colored could intercept. Sometimes the helper would have a fat caterpillar hanging out of its bill as it flew in circles trying to evade the Clay-colored. In this battle of biology the helper persevered, often getting through to feed the young.

Density of the nest tree prevented me from seeing the young branch out, but finally on 29 June the first bird fledged. It was found that morning having flown some distance on its own, being fed by the Clay-colored Sparrow as the female Chipping and helper tended to the remaining birds still in and near the nest, soon to make their own first flights. Over the next two days, the remaining two hybrid offspring would fledge. The last bird remained unsure of itself and remained close to the nest tree, attended to by the mother Chipping. The Clay-colored and helper Chippie fed the more adventurous, farther-flying young birds. The mother Chipping remained close to the nest and I wondered if perhaps a fourth young might be present, but it was never seen and I did not look in the nest while it was occupied. The fledglings made longer and more frequent flights, always becoming very animated before being fed, rarely together in the same spot. They continued being fed in trees exclusively for the first nine days, then often on the ground.

The eBird database contains only about a dozen records accepted as hybrids, mostly single birds seen as adults during migration, all but three from the eastern edge of the Clay-colored Sparrow range. It is difficult to assess how frequently pair-bonding behavior occurs between these closely related species, but such pairs appear to be very rare. In New York State, a male Clay-colored Sparrow paired with a female Chipping Sparrow in Columbia County in 1983 and 1984 (Novak 1988). In that case a nest but no eggs or young were observed the first year, but a nest with young was observed in 1984. Thus, the present report is one of only two where actual breeding was observed, and the first in which fledged offspring were observed contemporaneously with the parents. Although the juvenile plumages of these two closely related species are so similar that specific hybrid traits were not discernible in the newly fledged young, a molting immature seen in the cemetery 6 September clearly showed plumage characteristics of both parent species. It is overwhelmingly likely that this hybrid immature was one of the offspring from the hybrid pairing described in this article.



Male Clay-colored Sparrow feeding ten-day old offspring (© Deborah Dohne, 2020).

My last encounter with the Clay-colored Sparrow and its family came on 19 July when mowing in the area commenced. The bird sang from its favorite perches before the group wandered off to a quieter area, the young still dependent on their parents for food. If not for the disturbance, would they have attempted a second brood? In August, when I was positive that activity at the nesting spot was done for the year, I located the exact position of the nest and observed its construction. I was surprised by how difficult it was to find given the small size of the bush, but after spreading the needled branches apart I came upon it—the birds' sweet nest home. Well-concealed and fully intact, the small, well-supported nest was protected from rain and constructed of finely woven materials. There were no remains or shells but only the hard parts of several beetles. Late summer was spent searching for the Clay-colored Sparrow and hybrid offspring but was hindered by poor sightlines and tall grass in the large and hilly cemetery, the many sparrows there not yet flocking together and thus spread throughout in family groups. By September, large mixed-age Chipping Sparrow flocks formed and became conspicuous, and on the 6th I observed one of the hybrid offspring, now fully independent, busy going about the business of being a sparrow preparing for fall migration.

Reflecting on the experience, some questions arise. What will the fledglings look like as adults and will they return to the cemetery to nest? Was the helper bird a failed nester, some familial relation to or former mate of the mother perhaps, and had the mother been a helper once herself? Was the Clay-colored Sparrow a young bird making its first attempt at breeding? If not, had

it bred nearby previously and if so, was that also a hybrid pairing? And how would I spend summer 2020—will it return next year?



Chipping Sparrow helper with food showing typical raised crown seen before each attempt to get to nest (© Deborah Dohne, 2020).

TIMELINE AND HIGHLIGHTS OF FIELD NOTES

May 21: Clay-colored Sparrow (CCSP) arrives at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, NY.

May 25: A singing Olive-sided Flycatcher is nearby as the sparrow continues advertising its presence. Recorded the two species singing at the same time, an unusual scenario. **May 31:** Day 10. Territorial boundaries are apparent and well defined by singing perches.

June 4: CCSP seen carrying food but unknown where it went.

June 5: Day 15 on territory. CCSP singing a little less, mainly alternate song. Observed courtship behavior with a female Chipping Sparrow!! (CHSP) First CCSP fed a caterpillar, then presented tiny sticks to the CHSP.

June 6: CCSP continues to sing main and alternate songs in defense of territory. Chipping Sparrows from adjacent areas chased from the clearly-bounded territory. Pays no attention to E. Kingbird, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Am. Robin, Mourning Dove,

and Baltimore Oriole nesting in the area. CHSP pairs nesting in three of the adjacent sections seem to have conceded the CCSP territory.

June 8: It's amazing how consistently-interpreted the territorial boundary is. CCSP continues to escort interlopers over the line. CCSP and CHSP mate forage together on the ground and stay in close proximity.

June 9: Day 19. Nest site confirmed! CCSP and CHSP entering/leaving nest site together, an evergreen shrub, thick and dense especially in the upper third, 5'6" H x 36" D. Birds never seen with nesting material. Where did it come from and how/when did they get it there? Birds enter bush away from nest then move toward it from within.

June 14: Day 24. I think there is a hatchling but won't disturb the birds to get a better look. Both parents in and out of the nest tree regularly, switching places. First observation of this behavior.

June 18: Entering/exiting from bottom of tree (nest closer to top). Constant activity – coming and going about every three minutes. Presume all the eggs have hatched. CCSP singing as time allows.

June 19: Day 29 on territory. Helper Chippie seen delivering food for the first time and being chased by CCSP. Hectic schedule for the adults – feeding young and themselves. Returned in evening. Both parents entering nest tree with food. Male singing a lot in between, lots of activity the whole visit. In and out every couple of minutes.

June 20: Defending territory even in pouring rain.

June 21: Female with big caterpillar flies around area, as previously, before entering to feed young.

June 22: Female CHSP removes fecal sac and drops in road 75' away. I still haven't heard the young, don't know if they are quiet or if I'm just too far away. Aggressive CHSP at boundary repeatedly ejected by CCSP dad.

June 24: Day 34, short visit. Both parents attending to nest activity.

June 25: CCSP with food and first time I've heard the nestlings. Visits every 1-2 minutes. CCSP chases away the helper Chippie which was carrying food! Helper repeatedly tries to reach nest but CCSP chases it – at one point both were flying with food. CCSP too busy to sing. Nestlings make begging call only when adults are near the nest, including the helper, but are quiet otherwise.

June 27: Activities continue even with mowing in the section. Helper Chippie continues trying to feed nestlings.

June 29: Day 39. FIRST FLEDGLING!! I've been waiting for this day! In tree, one of the closest to nest bush, medium size maple. Being fed by CCSP. Moved around a little on branches within tree.

June 30: Second bird fledges, still at least one in the nest. Being fed by helper Chippie and CCSP, the latter too busy to object. Mother CHSP still attending to young at the nest.

July 1: Likely three fledglings, but only two seen at once, being fed by CCSP and helper. CCSP finding time to sing alternate song.

July 2: Young widely separated, being fed by helper and CCSP.

July 4: Day 44. Two fledglings together in same tree now a fair distance from nest.

July 7: Fledglings seen flying between trees within territory! Pair of CHSP seen nest building right at the edge of territory.

July 9: Day 49. Finally get decent photos of immature hybrids, being fed by CCSP. Second day I've seen them on the ground, also flying around more. CCSP doing limited singing, regular and alternate song. CHSP in adjacent area seen feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird that was constantly begging.

July 11: CCSP goes back to chasing away the helper CHSP. 'Thanks but no thanks.' Day 12 since the first young left the nest. Short visit, left them alone, one young seen.

July 17: CCSP singing a lot, like before the eggs hatched, alternate song only. Thinking about a second brood?

July 19: Day 59. Singing alternate song. This turned out to be the last day I observed the CCSP and its family together near the nest site. Departure certainly hastened by mowing taking place today. CCSP was at this location May 21-July 19. Likely still around but could not find.

Late July/August: Many CHSP family flocks throughout the cemetery. Hybrid young not seen.

Sept. 6: Large flocks of CHSP now, as many as 30 birds together, few small groups. After looking for weeks I finally find one of the hybrids! Feathers have grown in, influence from both parents noticeable. Buffier overall and in face pattern than pure Chippies of the same age. It was to be my last sighting and the end of the journey, at least for this year.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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THE PATCHINESS OF PATCH BIRDERS

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“I would like to volunteer for the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas,” said the voice on the other end of the phone. Thus began my introduction into the phenomenon of patch birders as I took on my role as regional coordinator of the 2000 Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA).

When I assumed the duties of Regional Coordinator (Long Island and NYC) of the 2000 BBA the term “patch” would have had little meaning to most Long Island birders. Visiting local birding areas was well known at the time. Many, but not all of these locations were not advertised, and generally consisted of small properties near the birder’s home that could be covered in a relatively short period of time. These small areas were not birding hotspots, posing a real challenge to the birder to find the occasional uncommon species. Patches were sometimes simply referred to as a favorite birding area.

The nature of the BBA protocol focused on birding locations outside of popular birding sites. In certain instances, these properties may have been part of a birder’s “private” patch. This revealed a theme I encountered a number of times—patch territoriality, or as I sometimes referred to it “What is (insert name) doing in my block?” Soothing ruffled feathers (pun intended) became part of my regional coordinator duties.

At the time of my taking on the regional coordinator job I had been birding for over twenty-five years and thought I had a good sense of the makeup of the birding community. I was wrong—very wrong. Being the BBA coordinator exposed me to a whole segment of the birding community that was active and vibrant but not part of the field birding and reporting scene.

Perhaps I should have known that there was a significant part of the birding community that was hiding in plain sight. In 2013, well after the 2000 BBA, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service released a report that estimated there were forty-seven million birders in the U.S. Many active birders (including me) thought that this number was a gross overestimate. However, upon reflecting on my Atlas experience and the percentage of that forty-seven million that were considered “backyard” birders—forty-one million (a very broad definition), I have since changed my opinion.

But what about the intrepid atlaser who called me? I quickly determined where this individual lived and assigned them the appropriate block. The atlasers also received maps and information packets. A data baseline for each block had been established in New York’s first BBA in 1980-1985. Unless there had been significant development in a breeding block it seemed reasonable that an atlaser could approach or exceed the number of breeding species recorded in the first atlas.

As the first breeding season of the BBA was coming to a close, the data sheets started to roll in. Our atlaser had dutifully recorded eighteen species in a block that had observed fifty-five breeding species in the previous BBA. Well, it was not overly impressive but a solid start. After all, there were four more years to improve the totals.

The years quickly passed, but something was clearly amiss in the breeding bird totals I was receiving. The total number of breeding birds was not increasing but the breeding confirmation rate was increasing. What was going on? I had to ask diplomatically. After all, you do not annoy your volunteers. It became apparent that for some atlases twenty-three species was the extent of their bird identification skills. The other, more telling aspect was that some atlases had never banded outside their patch, despite breeding blocks being five kilometers by five kilometers and many containing good breeding bird habitat.

I urged the atlases (the above referenced atlaser is an amalgamation of individuals I dealt with) to visit other productive locations in their block but the numbers did not significantly change. My patch atlases were going to stay loyal to their patch. In the last two years of the BBA I finally threw in the towel and covered these blocks myself, defeated by the patchiness of patch birders!

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NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC. 72nd ANNUAL MEETING, KINGSTON, NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held on September 14, 2019, at the Best Western Plus Kingston Hotel and Conference Center in Kingston, New York. President Michael DeSha called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. Roll call of member clubs revealed that 29 delegates from 17 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. Shirley Shaw made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 2018 annual meeting, which had been circulated previously. Brian Dugan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

President's Report – Michael DeSha

This report is a summary of NYSOA activities over the past year beginning with the 2018 Annual Meeting. Highlights of the year include a highly successful 71st Annual Meeting, and continuing intensive planning for the third New York State Breeding Bird Atlas effort.

The October 2018 71st Annual Meeting in Henrietta, NY was hosted by both the Rochester Birding Association and the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club. The event was a total success even though rain dampened the initial field trips. There were 187 registrants. The attendees at the Saturday-night banquet

enjoyed an entertaining talk by Greg Miller, one of the participants in a birding big-year three-way contest whose story is recounted in the book and subsequent movie, *The Big Year*.

The **Awards Committee** chaired by Bill Ostrander presented Stoner Awards to several outstanding young birders. The Gordon Meade Award, given to those individuals who have provided significant service to NYSOA, was presented to Tom Burke, *in absentia*, for his outstanding work as a long-standing NYSARC Committee member. The President's Award was presented to Carena Pooth for her long service in support of the Young Birders. Certificates of Appreciation were also awarded to the host clubs.

The **Bylaws Committee** chaired by Robert Spahn and ably assisted by Shirley Shaw and Tim Baird produced further proposed changes to our Bylaws to conform them to meet New York State regulations on meeting notifications. The resulting changes were approved by the Board of Directors in regular session, for presentation and adoption at this annual meeting. Member Organizations were notified by E-mail prior to this Annual Meeting in accordance with the Bylaws.

The **Conservation Committee**, chaired by Andy Mason and including Joan Collins and Brian Dugan took on a variety of issues. Of particular note is NYSOA's endorsement of the American Bird Conservancy's letter to the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Security in opposition to the building of a border wall. An ongoing issue is developing with respect to eBird posting of sites of nesting species, particularly owls and other raptors, and subsequent harassment by large numbers of people who are alerted to the location. The Committee is also working to develop a stance with respect to large-scale solar farms.

Carena Pooth compiles the **County and State Bird Listing Report** for those who are interested in keeping and comparing a list of species seen throughout the state and in the various counties. The results are published in the April issue of *New York Birders* and are available on line at the NYSOA website.

The **Marketing, Publicity, and Field Trip Committee** is really the group that promotes NYSOA. It has historically been without a Chair, but now Brian Dugan has responded and volunteered to head this important committee. We appreciate his volunteering. Mary Beth Warburton organized a wonderful field trip to the 1000 Islands area for NYSOA members. In an important new initiative, based upon the suggestion of Carena Pooth for increasing publicity, NYSOA Board members and others are providing NYSOA-related articles to our member organizations for inclusion in their newsletters.

Our **Membership Manager**, Joan Collins, has continued to provide the focus for interactions with the members and receiving membership renewals and applications. Joan and Pat Aitken, our **Circulation Manager**, along with Carena Pooth work to make sure our publications reach the membership.

Thanks to them for their help and particularly for Joan's taking over as Membership Manager. We really appreciate it.

The Kingbird, under editorship of Shai Mitra, is getting back to schedule, with the likelihood of the publication of five issues in 2019. A significant change is the appointment of Pat Lindsay as Regional Reports Editor, replacing Bob Spahn, who served in this capacity for many years. I particularly want to thank him for these years of service to NYSOA and **The Kingbird**. Joan Collins is on track to produce four outstanding issues of **New York Birders** and Carena Pooth keeps the print version of the **New York State Checklist** updated as changes are made by the AOS. Sales of the printed checklist are solid. Thanks to Carena up-to-date additions, splits and lumps, and name changes are accommodated in the online version of the checklist almost as soon as they occur.

The **New York State Young Birders Club** thrived under the careful mentorship of Carena Pooth in the eleven years since its inception in 2008. It is almost impossible to imagine this organization without her, and it was clearly a labor of love on her part. We are grateful that 5 parents and another adult have stepped in to take over most of the functions formerly undertaken by Carena.

The **Research Committee**, chaired by Greg Lawrence, oversees many of the projects relating to field birding. Bill Ostrander compiles the Waterfowl Count, on which the DEC relies for its waterfowl assessments. The NY Breeding Bird Atlas III will continue to be the focus of research for the next six or seven years. While the previous two Atlases were directly under the control of NYSOA, this Atlas project is being administered by a collection of entities, among them NYSOA, Cornell Lab, New York Audubon, and ESF, which will be operating under DEC and receiving Federal Grant money for the project. As reported last year, NYSOA will not be able to control this project as it has the previous Atlases. Nevertheless, the NYSOA Board has committed to working on this next iteration and things seem to be progressing well. NYSOA Atlas objectives are being accommodated. Kathy Schneider, appointed by NYSOA, continues as co-chair of the Atlas Steering Committee. Since I will be ending my term of office, I will no longer be a part of the Steering Committee because I view my participation as being in a NYSOA executive capacity. Robert Spahn, Joan Collins, and Greg Lawrence are continuing as members of the Steering Committee, so NYSOA is well represented. Julie Hart has been appointed Project Coordinator. Most Regional Coordinator positions have also been filled.

Carena Pooth, **Website and Information Committee** Chair, keeps the website up-to-date with the latest NYSOA information and news.

Doug Gochfeld was appointed to another term on the **NYSARC Committee**. Derek Rogers and Jay McGowan were also appointed.

Again this year, I sincerely want to note that it has been my pleasure to work with this Board, the officers and Committee Chairs. Thank you for your service.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. DeSha, President

Treasurer's Report – Andy Mason

Andy presented written reports including a balance sheet, a statement of general operating fund activity, and a statement of the activities and balances in other funds. Andy mentioned that the NY BBA III fund was established during 2019, so it will show up on next year's report. Donations to that fund are welcome. Andy also reported on the board's recent actions to invest a portion of NYSOA's assets in stock and bond funds, and to begin publishing *The Kingbird* electronically, with associated changes to the dues structure. Andy is finishing his tenth and final year as treasurer.

NYSOA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee – Stephen Chang

Mike DeSha delivered the audit committee's report. The committee reported in August 2019 that it had examined the 2018 financial reports and found no problems.

Bylaws – Bob Spahn

Bob presented the two minor changes to the bylaws that were necessitated by changes to New York state laws. The proposed changes, which concern the timing of notification of meetings, had been circulated in advance to the member organizations. Mike Birmingham moved to accept the proposed changes. Chita McKinney seconded, and the proposed change was unanimously adopted.

Awards Committee – Bill Ostrander

Bill reported on the awards to be presented at the evening banquet. They included three Lillian B. Stoner Awards, three President's Awards, and an Emanuel Levine Memorial Award.

Conservation Committee – Andy Mason

Andy provided a summary of the committee's activities over the past year. Issues covered included the proposed border wall in Texas, proposed development at the EPCAL site in Suffolk County, and a wind power project near Lake Ontario. The committee is also researching the effects of large-scale solar power development on bird habitat. Andy reported that involvement of local birders is needed to address the issue at Doodletown in Bear Mountain State Park, where last year a road race prevented birder access on a May weekend. Julie Hart reported that the NY BBA III committees are working with eBird on a policy to hide information on nesting locations of sensitive species.

Julie also reported that the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has issued a proposed update to the list of threatened and endangered species, and is taking comments on it. Rich Guthrie brought up the issue of the rising recreational use of hovercraft in sensitive wetlands, particularly the tidal marshes of the Hudson River Estuary. He urged the committee to petition state agencies to regulate the use of these craft in sensitive areas.

County and State Listing Project – Carena Pooth

Carena reported that interest in county listing remains strong, with 129 reports submitted for 2018. The detailed report is available on the NYSOA website, and it includes some of the comments from the participants. The submission form for 2019 is available on the website, and reports can be submitted online.

Marketing, Publicity, and Field Trips Committee –

Mike DeSha reported that Joan Collins plans to work with Mary Beth Warburton to plan a winter field trip in the Adirondacks, where there is currently an irruption of Red Crossbills being observed.

Membership and Circulation – Joan Collins, Pat Aitken

Joan and Pat were unable to attend, but submitted a written report of membership statistics. The report shows that overall membership levels remain stable, with an upward trend in the number renewing at the “Contributing” level.

New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) – Willie D’Anna No report.

New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) – Carena Pooth

Carena reported that she has turned over leadership of NYSYBC to the new adult leaders:

Co-chairs: Emily Van Gelder and Rosanne Vinson

Treasurer: Moto Yoshimura

Membership: Lauren Scott

Field Trips: Susan Joseph (continuing since 2017)

Scholarships: Emily Wein

Carena Pooth continues to run the website, and to serve the club in an advisory role. She reports that there is a need for an additional adult volunteer to assist Susan with coordination of field trips. Carena also presented a written report summarizing membership statistics, field trips, scholarships, and partner organizations. NYSYBC has awarded more than \$36,000 since the scholarship program began in 2010. The scholarships facilitate attendance by young birders at birding camps and conservation-oriented programs. The club’s 2020 kickoff event will be hosted by Saw Mill River Audubon.

Publications –

Shai Mitra reported that all of the vacant regional editor positions for *The Kingbird* have been filled. Michael DeWispelaere has taken over Region 4, and John Haas has taken over Region 9. Region 10 will be split by season, with Shai continuing to edit the summer report. Doug Futuyma has taken over the winter season, and Brendan Fogarty will handle the spring and fall reports for Region 10. Patricia Lindsay has taken over from Bob Spahn as the overall editor of the regional reports. Pat is also taking over the compilation of spring arrival date tables, with guidance from Bob, who has compiled them for many years. Shai reports that the plan to get publication of *The Kingbird* back on schedule is proving effective, with steady progress being made.

Mike DeSha relayed a report on *New York Birders* from Joan Collins. The next issue is expected in October.

Carena Pooth reported on the latest updates to the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State*, which are based on the latest taxonomy changes from the American Ornithological Society.

Research – Greg Lawrence

Greg reported that there are Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes that need to be filled. He encouraged anyone interested to visit the U.S. Geological Survey's BBS website to see the locations of the routes and sign up to cover them.

Bill Ostrander reported on the annual waterfowl count. He noted that a Region 9 coordinator is needed for the count.

Kathy Schneider presented a written report on planning for NY BBA III. The report summarizes the work of Julie Hart as Atlas Project Coordinator, and of the various subcommittees planning the atlas. The atlas website is active and includes a store with merchandise bearing the NY BBA III logo. It also contains detailed information on how to use breeding codes and a map of the atlas blocks. An online block sign-up system will be activated when the atlas begins. The steering committee has selected regional coordinators for most regions of the state, though candidates are still being sought for the Syracuse and Rochester areas. Kathy reported that a chair is needed for the development subcommittee, which will need to engage in fundraising activities throughout the atlas period. The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology raised \$675,000 to help fund that state's second BBA, which took place over the past five years. Those funds were needed in addition to the state and federal funding help they received. NY BBA III plans to use some fundraising methods that proved successful in Wisconsin, including a "sponsor a species" program.

Julie Hart reported that flyers about NY BBA III are printed and available for distribution. She and the regional coordinators are available to do talks and 3-hour workshops on NY BBA III for bird clubs around the state.

Mike DeSha encouraged all NYSOA members to make a financial contribution to NY BBA III.

Website and Information Services – Carena Pooth

Carena presented a written report on the NYSOA website. It includes statistics on which pages on the site get the most use. She noted that the membership page, including the online dues payment system, has seen increasing usage in the past couple of years. This is likely due to the fact that renewal notices are being sent by email, with a link to renew online. Online renewals save time for the membership volunteers and money for NYSOA. The new page about NY BBA III is now in the top ten most visited pages on the site.

Election of Officers

On behalf of the nominating committee, Bob Adamo presented the following slate for election:

Officers: (one year terms)

President: Shirley Shaw

Vice President: Greg Lawrence

Recording Secretary: John Kent

Treasurer: Mary Jane Dugan

Directors: (terms ending in fall 2021)

Patricia Aitken

Brian Dugan

Brendan Fogarty

Lucretia Grosshans

Director: (term ending in fall 2020)

Gerald Thurn (replacing Shirley Shaw for the remainder of her term)

Auditing Committee: (one year term)

Stephen Chang (Chair)

Tom Burke

Peter Capainolo

Nominating Committee: (one year term)

Robert Adamo (Chair)

Michael DeSha

Lucretia Grosshans

Andy Mason moved to cast one ballot to elect the above slate of officers for the coming year and directors for the two-year term ending in fall 2021. Tim Baird seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Shai Mitra moved to elect Gerald Thurn to fill the remainder of Shirley Shaw's term as a director. Doug Beattie seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Bob Adamo moved to elect the auditing committee as listed above. Brian Dugan seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Shirley Shaw moved to elect the nominating committee as listed above. Barbara Butler seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Continuing directors: (terms ending in fall 2020)

Joe Brin

Douglas Futuyma

Richard Guthrie

Robert Spahn

New Business

Joe Brin will serve as liaison with Onondaga Audubon Society, which will be hosting the 2020 NYSOA annual meeting in the Syracuse area. Joe reports that planning for the meeting has begun.

Rich Guthrie moved to adjourn. Pat DiBenedetto seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kent

Recording Secretary

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Membership in the New York State Ornithological Association confers many intangible and several tangible benefits. Among the most important of the latter are our two quarterly publications, the newsletter *New York Birders*, and the journal *The Kingbird*. Starting with the January 2020 renewals, it will now be possible for members to receive *The Kingbird* electronically. Those who wish to continue receiving the journal in hard copy will be able to do so, but at a slightly higher rate, to offset the considerable costs of printing and mailing.

The new pricing structure and options for receiving *The Kingbird* are explained on the NYSOA website and on the inside covers of every issue of *The Kingbird*.

Information regarding member clubs and institutional subscriptions is available on the website, or in more detail via email: president1@nybirds.org.

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA/BIRDS OF THE WORLD SUBSCRIPTIONS

Currently, *Birds of North America* online is available to NYSOA members at a discounted price (see our website for information). But we have exciting news from Cornell—as of March 5th, 2020 their teams will be expanding the subscription to include *Birds of the World*, a web-based publication that combines scholarly content from four celebrated works of ornithology: *Birds of North America*, *Neotropical Birds*, *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*, and *Bird Families of the World* at no additional cost to current subscribers. Renewal costs will be higher, but a discount coupon will be offered through June 2021. This will be yet another terrific benefit of being a member of NYSOA. Go to birdsoftheworld.org for more information.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS III

Breeding Bird Atlas III is underway. A wealth of information, including contact information for Regional coordinators, methods and breeding codes, can be found on the NYSOA web page, accessed from the Projects and Resources link. Breeding codes are also included in the Standard Abbreviations section of *The Kingbird* (p. 411).

ERRATA

Errata found in the printed versions of *The Kingbird* will be published annually in the March issues, and will be corrected in the electronic versions posted to the NYSOA website.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SUMMER 2019

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Summer 2019 started out cooler and wetter than average in most parts of the state, with early June tending to be quite a bit cooler than normal. By July, summer temperatures returned, and the month was generally warmer and drier than average. August was right around average, both in temperature and in rainfall, except for Region 2, where less than half the normal amount of precipitation fell. The remnants of Hurricane Barry brought some tropical heat in late July, but apparently not much in the way of tropical birds were left after its long meandering from its Gulf landfall.

New York certainly seems to be on the radar for a number of species that were great rarities just a short time ago. As we've seen Sandhill Crane, Clay-colored Sparrow, Summer Tanager and others become relatively normal, if still local, fixtures in many Regions, it seems to be a matter of time before birds like Trumpeter Swan, American White Pelican, Black-necked Stilt and maybe even Black-bellied Whistling Duck become familiar to more and more of us. As part of a larger incursion into the northeast, single Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were found in Regions 1, 3, 6 and 8 from the beginning of the period through mid June, and up to 12 continued from spring around Jones Inlet in Region 10, through early July.

Trumpeter Swans were reported from four Regions, with breeding confirmed in three of those. Nesting was confirmed at Three Rivers NWR in Region 5 and there were several other likely but unconfirmed attempts in that Region alone.

Waterfowl were given positive mentions in Region 3, with good numbers of Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler among others. In Region 5, Blue-winged Teal and Ruddy Ducks, both with chicks, provided confirmation of breeding, while Common Goldeneye was noted as an intriguing possibility there and in Region 6.

Species lingering into summer included Tundra Swan, both scaup, Black Scoter and Long-tailed Duck in Region 3, White-winged Scoter and Long-tailed Duck in Region 2 and a Canvasback in Region 1. As many as 183 Common Eider at Shinnecock in Region 10 illustrate this species' increasing occurrence in summer in recent years. While we're scanning the waterways, other surprising summer sightings included Red-necked Grebes in Regions 2, 3 and 7, Horned Grebe in Region 1, Red-throated and Common Loons lingering in Regions 2 and 3, and a Red-throated photographed in breeding plumage on 20 July at Peck Lake in Region 8. A late Glaucous Gull was found at Woodlawn Beach in Region 1, and what apparently was the same "Thayer's" Iceland Gull was found in Regions 1 and 2 on 14 June.

Laughing Gulls were noted in Region 9 as far north as Croton Point along the Hudson River, while singles turned up in Regions 1, 2 and 3. The recently discovered Laughing Gull colony in Great South Bay, amazingly just the second significant breeding site in Region 10 and New York State, continued again this summer. There were numerous reports of immature Lesser Black-backed Gull throughout the season along the south shore of Long Island; it is still a mystery where these birds go to breed when they mature. Multiple Little Gulls were reported from Region 7, and what apparently was an unusual second-winter plumage bird was photographed at Braddock Bay in August. It appears that both Black and Caspian Terns are maintaining strongholds in several upstate Regions, but high water at Little Galloo Island apparently contributed to that Caspian Tern colony's 50% plus reduction. See also the Region 6 report on unusual nest site selection for the only successful Common Tern nest in the

Region. In Region 10, a Bridled Tern summered at Great Gull Island for the fourth straight year and another was found offshore; Arctic Terns were found at Nickerson Beach, Democrat Point and the Line Islands; and there were three Sandwich Tern reports. A Common Tern thought to be of the Siberian-breeding subspecies *longipennis* was photographed at Nickerson Beach as well. Region 10 also had its share of pelagic highlights, but seawatching from land was rather poor this season. High counts of Double-crested Cormorants and Black-crowned Night Herons were reported from traditional sites in Region 6.

As mentioned up top, American White Pelicans appear to be gaining a real foothold in the state. See Mike Morgante's comments in Region 1 regarding the potential for this species to breed in the area. Elsewhere, singles were noted in Regions 2, 3 and 5. A Brown Booby was photographed as it perched on the mast of a sailing ship on the Hudson River in Region 9. This provides the first record for Orange County and the first for the Region. Region 10 had multiple reports of Brown Booby along the south shore of Long Island. It was a good year for Brown Pelican on Long Island as well.

Common Gallinules and American Coots were literally on display at the Sandhill Crane Unit of the Northern Montezuma WMA as reduced vegetation revealed peak counts of 105 and 180 respectively. Gallinules were noteworthy breeders in Regions 4 and 5, and there were two reports from Region 10, where they are scarce at best. Black-necked Stilts were found at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 and again in Region 1, where the possibility of eventual breeding was considered. Sandhill Cranes continue to expand in waves throughout the state, with birds reported from every Region. Breeding is now looked upon as routine in many locations.

Several American Avocets were found in the westernmost Regions of the state, and 2-3 delighted birders from the Shinnecock area to Mecox Bay in Region 10. Piping Plovers fledged young again in at Sandy Island Beach SP in Region 5, obviously a remarkable accomplishment for this dwindling population and for all the human caretakers involved. Upland Sandpipers continue to hang on, with reports from almost every Region, albeit all involving small numbers and confirmed breeding at just a few sites. Good counts of American Golden Plover were recorded in Regions 3 and 5. Counts of Whimbrel included 25 and 38 in Region 2—good numbers for anywhere in the state. Other good shorebird records included Red Knot and Sanderling at several upstate locations, Marbled Godwit in Region 2, and Western Sandpiper in Regions 2 and 8. Triple digit counts of Semipalmented Sandpiper were reported from Regions 1 and 2, topped by 1300 at MNWR in Region 3.

Herons and egrets were reported in substantially higher than normal numbers in several upstate Regions, with 103 Great Egret in Region 9 setting a new record, while Regions 3 and 4 reported 207 and 28 respectively. Also in Region 9, 98 Great Blue Herons and seven scattered Little Blue Herons were noteworthy. Single Snowy Egrets and Glossy Ibis in Region 3 were topped by

a first Regional record of White Ibis, found in late August at MNWR. After an exceptional showing in spring, just a single White-faced Ibis was reported in Region 10, over two days in mid June at Captree Island marsh.

An unsuccessful nesting was attempted by a pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Region 9. See the article pages 314-316 in this issue for more detail.

Black Vultures continue to expand north and west. Breeding is probably occurring, but will be difficult to document in this species. A Swallow-tailed Kite in Region 2 provided a fifth Regional record, while a Mississippi Kite was seen soaring over Ward Pound Ridge in Region 9 in June. There were two Mississippi Kite sightings in Region 10, one on Staten Island and one in eastern Suffolk County. Continuing recent trends, Osprey and Bald Eagle numbers were generally good and there were encouraging signs for all three falcons, at least in the western Regions. Most other raptors seem to be not doing so well.

Woodpeckers seem to be doing well in several areas, with Red-headed in particular receiving positive mentions in Regions 1, 2 and 3, and a pair seen at a nest hole in Robert Cushman Murphy Park in Region 10, where breeding is infrequent. Black-backed Woodpeckers were found in Regions 5 and 7 this season, with breeding confirmed in the latter. In a tale of north meets south, Red-bellied Woodpecker also bred in Region 7, apparently not for the first time.

Acadian Flycatchers seem to be increasing in Region 1 and good numbers were reported for Region 2. Olive-sided Flycatchers were also reported in good numbers, both as spring migrants in early June and as returning fall birds at the end of the period. Likewise, Yellow-bellied and Least Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird received positive comments from various Regional editors. Very notable was an early Western Kingbird at Croton Point in Region 9 in mid August, but the best of the lot was single-observer sighting of a Gray Kingbird, photographed at Smith Point County Park in Region 10. Both these birds are featured on the covers of this issue. Canada Jays were confirmed as breeding in Region 7, but went unreported elsewhere. In Region 1, Fish Crows were present, but no breeding was confirmed. Sedge Wrens are being detected over a wide area, albeit in small numbers. Reports came in from at least six Regions. Boreal Chickadee seems to be increasingly difficult to find, with apparently one report each for Regions 6 and 7.

Four Regions reported Evening Grosbeaks—a shadow of last winter's mini irruption. Red Crossbills showed up in six Regions, nested at two locations in Region 6, and at least attempted nesting on Long Island, continuing from spring. Both crossbills put in appearances in Region 7. Clay-colored Sparrows continue to colonize the state, with birds showing up in six Regions, often at multiple locations. Check the article in this issue and the Region 5 report for some sparrow drama which played out in a Syracuse cemetery! A Nelson's Sparrow at Times Beach in Region 1 provided a rare spring record for the Region. A White-crowned Sparrow in Wayne County in Region 2 on 1 August was quite early, while two in Region 1 in early June must have been late northbound birds.

See the Region 10 report for unusual dates for White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. A Dickcissel lingered at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 through late August.

Things continue to look bleak for Golden-winged Warbler, with reports ranging from few to none. Region 3 reported good numbers of migrant warblers, notably Cape May, Blackburnian, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Pine and Blackpoll. Elsewhere reports were mixed. Some of the southern breeders continue to do well, with Prothonotary reported from five Regions, including several breeding pairs, and Hooded, noted in three Regions and generally on the increase. A Yellow-throated Warbler was photographed at Letchworth SP in Region 2 in late June. A Connecticut Warbler was identified by song recordings at Southard's Pond Park in southwestern Suffolk County on 1 June, a very rare spring occurrence in Region 10, and one at 4 Mile Creek in Region 2 on 22 August set a record early southbound date. Mourning Warbler seemed to be well represented state-wide. A pair with chicks at Neversink, in Region 9, provided the first breeding record for Sullivan County.

Overall, the season produced quite a few interesting reports, and as always, some disappointing and even alarming trends are noted. Not surprisingly for a summer report, it was a little light on true rarities. The immature Brown Booby that hitched a ride on the sailboat mast must have been a shocker, but I think that as an overall head-scratcher, I'd have to go with the LeConte's Sparrow found near Willsboro in Region 7 on 12 August. Not only is this a rare bird in general for New York, but this individual was a juvenile present in mid August. I don't think many birders had this species on the potential breeding list for New York, but this record at least points toward that possibility. Regional Editor Bill Krueger mentions that there are no summer records in eBird south of Canada on the east coast.

Thank you all for reading along and here's to some great birding ahead.



REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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There was a prolonged cool start to June 2019 before more summery weather took over. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 65.2° F, 1.1° below normal, with 4.60" of precipitation, 0.94" above average. July was warmer, drier, and more humid than usual. The mean temperature was 74.0°, 2.9° above average. Precipitation was 1.83", 1.40" below average. August was typical and pleasant. The average temperature was 70.3°, 0.7° above normal.

Rainfall was 3.62", 0.36" above normal. Weather data excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

The two most recent Regional breeders continued in 2019. Trumpeter Swans bred at Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR for the second year in a row, with seven young observed by many throughout the summer. Caspian Terns bred in Buffalo Harbor for the third consecutive year and seem to have become a fixture in the area. Unlike the Common Terns that stay very close to their Buffalo Harbor breakwall nesting areas along the Niagara River and Lake Erie, it is not unusual to see Caspian Terns flying around and foraging on ponds in the Buffalo suburbs.

There were Black Vulture sightings in Lewiston again but no evidence of breeding other than their presence in summer (and throughout the year). It will be a challenge to locate nesting evidence during the NY BBA III project for this species that has probably been breeding in the area in recent years.

There were summer sightings of three other species that could possibly represent new Regional breeding species at some point in the future. Fish Crow has yet to be confirmed as a breeder in Region 1 although scattered summer reports, increasing reports in other seasons, and documented nesting to the immediate west and east of the Region provide reasonable assurance that it's only a matter of time. A group of eight Fish Crows found by Joel Strong, Rachel Wilson, and Willie D'Anna at Olcott on 9 June represents a new Regional maximum. A **Black-necked Stilt** was photographed by Paul Leuchner on 19 June while kayaking on the Niagara River near the newly created Frog Island WMA. As I commented two years ago when a stilt stuck around Iroquois NWR into June, this species should be considered as a breeding possibility based on breeding records around the Great Lakes in this century. While this bird was not refound, there have now been sightings in two of the last three Junes, with May reports in both of those years (2017, 2019) as well. Reports of American White Pelican have increased in recent years and there were two sightings this summer including a long-staying bird on the Buffalo waterfront. With recent news that pelicans have been documented nesting in western Lake Erie, it's well within the realm of possibility that they eventually find the colonial waterbird colony islands of the Niagara River.

There wasn't much of note from the less common and/or declining breeding species typically tracked in this summer season report. Upland Sandpiper was only found at a landfill adjacent to Tillman Road WMA again, plus a nocturnal flyover report. Another sharp decline in breeding distribution should be expected for the upcoming atlas for this species. There were no mid-summer reports of Common Nighthawk in Buffalo or Jamestown, the only recent locations of suspected breeding. Sandhill Cranes were present in Iroquois NWR and Randolph although I'm not aware of confirmed breeding this year. Merlins bred at several locations; it will be interesting to see how much expansion there will be in the upcoming atlas. Sedge Wren was found at one

location, although little effort is typically spent trying to find this species. Clay-colored Sparrow sightings continue to expand to new locations, especially near Lake Ontario. Golden-winged Warbler was not found other than two likely migrants in late August. Prothonotary Warbler was documented at Tonawanda WMA, the only regularly documented breeding location in the Region; however, I suspect there are more locations around Iroquois NWR and the adjacent WMAs as well as elsewhere in Region that this species could occur. Hopefully we find more locations in the next few summers of atlas searching.

Least Bittern presumably nested at Times Beach NP for at least the second summer in a row, with several reports of five bitterns and even a careful count of seven on 31 August by Shelley Seidman. Their presence is one of the many rewards from the 5+ year invasive species removal and natural habitat restoration demonstration project undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Information on this project can be found at <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/District-Projects/Times-Beach/>.

There were some notable shorebird sightings in early June at the end of spring migration including a Red Knot at Dunkirk Harbor, a Whimbrel at Buffalo Harbor, and a Willet in Wilson, where rare for Niagara County. “Fall” migrant shorebirding produced a few interesting reports but overall was rather dull as no good concentration areas were found until mid-August when North Marsh at Oak Orchard WMA produced some good numbers and variety. Woodlawn Beach SP on Lake Erie produced one American Avocet on 30 July and two on 28 August. Willets were reported at three locations including eight at Times Beach NP on 18 August, and a Whimbrel was spotted in Wilson on 17 July.

Joel Strong took definitive photos of an adult “Thayer’s” Iceland Gull at Point Breeze on 14 June, which represents a very unusual summer record. A Glaucous Gull at Woodlawn Beach SP was on the late side for 1 June, while a juvenile Laughing Gull found there by Dean DiTommaso on an August morning could not be relocated after park staff groomed the beach. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found along Lake Ontario in June at Wilson and Olcott, consistent with early summer sightings in recent years. The lone Forster’s Tern report came from Wilson Pier in July. Black Terns appeared to do well based on their numbers at Iroquois NWR and adjacent Tonawanda WMA; there were no sightings away from this core area.

The most notable summer waterfowl occurrence was a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**. Dean DiTommaso heard and then sighted one flying off Lake Erie at Buffalo Harbor SP on 1 June. Despite searching Tifft NP and other nearby areas the duck could not be relocated. A few days later, Doug Mutton reported one hanging out at a small pond in Clarence next to the Town Hall and Library buildings, which was very likely the same bird that DiTommaso saw. On 7 June, two days after Mutton’s sighting, Sue Barth found the whistling-

duck at the same Clarence pond and many birders were able to see this rare and handsome duck. This was the first Erie County record and fifth for the Region, all of which occurred in the decade.

Summering diving ducks included a Canvasback and 1-2 Lesser Scaup at Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ruddy Ducks were present there throughout the summer, but numbers are much lower in recent summers than previously. Doug Beattie identified a Horned Grebe there in mid-June, while Eared Grebes went unreported there this summer.

There were a few Pine Siskin reports including one that was sighted through most of the summer attending the Zebehazy feeders in Orchard Park. Tony Dvorak spotted a **Nelson's Sparrow** at Times Beach NP on 4 June that several birders were able to refind throughout the day; this marks a rare spring migration record for the Region. Two White-crowned Sparrow reports in Niagara County in the first half of June can likely be attributed to late migrants, but I'm not sure what to make of one at Lakeside Beach SP found by Don Bemont on 16 July.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Barth, Doug Beattie (DBea), Don Bemont (DBem), David Crowe, Willie D'Anna, Dean DiTommaso, Tony Dvorak, Alec Humann, Sabrina Kornowski, Paul Leuchner, Hans Mann, Celeste Morien, TJ Mudd, Doug Mutton, Joseph Petre, Jeff Reed, Chris Rockwell, Joy Saunders (JSa), Tim Schadel, Karl Schmidt, Shelly Seidmann, Joel Strong (JSt), Kirk Vanstrom, Gale VerHague, Rachel Wilson, Peter Yoerg, Mike Zebehazy.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BuFH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FMCSP** – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Pt Breeze, ORLE; **PG** – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tifft NP** – Tifft Nature Preserve, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS
BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:
BufH 1 Jun (DD!); Clarence ERIE 5, 7 Jun
(DM, SB, mob); first ERIE record; 5th Reg
record, all this decade.

Mute Swan: DH thru; max 14 WTSP 22 Jun;
4 GHSP 5 Jul; 6 Carlton ORLE 17 Jul; 7
Olcott NIAG 7 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 + 7 yg INWR 7 Jun thru (mob), bred at this location for 2nd straight year.

Wood Duck: 150, 123 INWR 1, 20 Aug; max 161 TWMA 31 Aug; 120 BWWTP 31 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Olcott NIAG 7 Aug; 12 TBNP 18 Aug; max 32, 66 INWR 22, 29 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: 2 Unity I NR 3 Jun; TBNP 4 Jun; max 33 BWWTP 31 Aug.

Gadwall: Somerset NIAG 1, 5 Jun; max 8 Dunkirk CHAU 16 Aug.

American Wigeon: DH 6, 15 Jun; only reports.

American Black Duck: Wilson NIAG 12 Aug; 4 DH 28 Aug; only reports.

Northern Pintail: 3, 1 INWR 18 Jul, 1 Aug; only reports.

Green-winged Teal: 5 INWR 18 Jul; 4 RWNP 22 Jul; max 60 INWR 20 Aug.

Canvasback: BWWTP 16 Jun, 13 Jul; 8 Aug (DBea), rare in summer.

Redhead: 2 TWMA 3 Jun; 4 INWR 8 Jun; 3 Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 23 Aug (GV), unusual loc for date; only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: INWR 8 Jun; only report.

Lesser Scaup: 2, 1 BWWTP 16 Jun, 19 Jul (DBea); only report.

Common Merganser: 3 + 11 yg INWR 10 Jun (TS), unusual breeding location; max 36 Buffalo NR 21 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: 4 Olcott NIAG 1 Jun; FMCS, 2 Wilson NIAG 10 Jun; Hanover CHAU 13 Jun; max 18 LBSP 29 Aug.

Ruddy Duck: 6 Middleport NIAG 1 Jun; Tiff NP 2 Jun; 6, 4 INWR 7 Jun, 1 Aug; 9, 20, 12 BWWTP 16 Jun, 13 Jul, 18 Aug, regular summer location but reduced numbers in recent years.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 19, 34 INWR 19 Jul, 20 Aug (CM).

Horned Grebe: BWWTP 16 Jun (DBea); only report.

Common Nighthawk: Caneadea ALLE 1 Jun; Newstead ERIE 7 Jun; Boston ERIE 11 Jun; 2 Jamestown CHAU 19 Aug; INWR 25 Aug; 3 Tonawanda ERIE 26 Aug; max 5 TWMA 31 Aug.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 1-3 CSWMA thru; 1-3 BMAC thru; Ischua CATT 11 Aug (JR); 2 Hanging

Bog WMA ALLE 26 Aug; only reports away from INWR.

Sora: BWWTP 16 Jun; GHSP 1 Jul; BMAC 10 Aug; only reports away from INWR.

Common Gallinule: 35 TWMA 15 Jul; max 36, 42 INWR 20 Jul, 20 Aug.

American Coot: Tiff NP 3 Jun, 16 Aug; TBNP 6 Jun, 20 Jul; max 24 INWR 20 Jun.

Sandhill Crane: 3 Randolph CHAU 8 Jun; 2, 5 INWR 9 Jun, 30 Aug; 3 OOWMA 20 Aug; no direct evidence of breeding this year but may have occurred around INWR again.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Frog Island WMA NR ERIE 19 Jun (PL ph!), not refound; 3rd regional record.

American Avocet: 1, 2 WoBSP 30 Jul, 28 Aug (JSa, SK); only reports.

Black-bellied Plover: BufH 2 Jun; last Somerset NIAG 5 Jun; only reports.

American Golden-Plover: arr Attica WYOM 31 Aug.

Semipalmented Plover: last 2 Wilson NIAG 8 Jun; arr Somerset NIAG 18 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 TRWMA 11 Jun; Buffalo ERIE 12 Aug (PY), nocturnal flight call; only reports.

Whimbrel: last BufH 1 Jun (SB); arr Wilson NIAG 17 Jul (WD); only reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: 5 BufH, 3 Wilson NIAG 2 Jun; last BufH 6 Jun; arr PB 20 Jul; BufH 21-28 Aug.

Red Knot: DH 3 Jun (GV); only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 Porter NIAG 17 Jul; OOWMA 18, 26 Aug; INWR 29 Aug; only reports.

Sanderling: las BufH 2 Jun; arr Olcott NIAG 31 Jul; 22 WoBSP 29 Aug; max 24 BufH, 13 Barcelona CHAU 31 Aug.

Dunlin: last Somerset NIAG 10 Jun.

Least Sandpiper: last Eden ERIE, Wilson NIAG 2 Jun; arr Buffalo ERIE 1 Jul; max 36 Wilson NIAG 17 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: BufH 2 Jun (SB); last 1,1 Somerset NIAG 5, 10 Jun (JSt).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Wilson NIAG 19 Jul; max 11 OOWMA 20 Aug.

Semipalmented Sandpiper: max 135, last 13 Wilson NIAG 2, 6 Jun (WD); arr Somerset NIAG 18 Jul; 23 OOWMA 22 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 Hartland NIAG 11 Jul; 3 Wilson NIAG 18 Jul; 1, 4, 7 INWR 25 Jul, 20, 24 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: max 22 OOWMA 27 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Albion ORLE 5 Jul; max 8 OOWMA 16 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 INWR 13 Jul; max 37 OOWMA 16 Aug.

Willet: last Wilson NIAG 2 Jun (WD); arr Hanover CHAU 19 Jul (GV); max 8 TBNP 18 Aug (SB, SS); 3 WoBSP 18 Aug (SB, TJM).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 LBSP 14 Jul; max 17 INWR 20 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 48 Wilson NIAG 10 Aug.

Laughing Gull: WoBSP 19 Aug (DD!), not found.

"THAYER'S" ICELAND GULL: ad PB 14 Jun (JSt ph!), first summer record of Thayer's.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Olcott NIAG 9 Jun (WD, JSt, RW); Wilson NIAG 10, 28 Jun (WD); early summer reports becoming more regular.

Glaucous Gull: WoBSP 1 Jun (SB ph!), late.

Caspian Tern: max 75 BufH 1 Jun; Ischua CATT 16 Aug, unusual location; 73 Olcott NIAG 12 Aug.

Black Tern: max 40 INWR 24 Jun, good breeding conditions at this location.

Common Tern: 27 Wilson NIAG 22 Aug, highest count away from NR.

Forster's Tern: Wilson NIAG 17 Jul (WD); only report.

LOONS-FALCONS

Common Loon: 2 Somerset NIAG 8 Jun; NF 29 Jun, 12 Jul; 3, 1 Ellery ChauL 30 Jun, 14 Aug; LBSP 1 Jul; 3 Mayville CHAU 7 Jul; Busti CHAU 20 Jul; N Collins ERIE 8 Aug (SB), unusual location for date.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 750 DH 15 Aug.

American White Pelican: INWR 3 Jun (CM); BufH 23 Jun – 12 Jul (HM, mob); followed increased spring presence.

American Bittern: BMAC 15 Jun; max 3 INWR 1 Aug; Tifft NP 23 Aug.

Least Bittern: 2, 2, 3 Tifft NP 2 Jun, 8 Jul, 1 Aug; BeSP 5 Jun; max 3, 4, 7 TBNP 23 Jun, 14 Jul, 31 Aug (SS); 3 TWMA 27 Jun; 1, 2, 2 INWR 27 Jun, 20 Jul, 1 Aug.

Great Blue Heron: max 176 INWR 20 Aug.

Great Egret: 40 Tonawanda NR 4 Jul; max 50, 143 INWR 18 Jul, 20 Aug; 102 TWMA 31 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 17 INWR 1 Aug, good count away from NR.

Black Vulture: 3, 3, 1 Lewiston NIAG 12 Jun, 27 Jul, 18 Aug; regular at this location in recent years.

Osprey: increasing.

Bald Eagle: increasing.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Wilson NIAG 1 Jun; INWR 8, 22 Jun; Tifft NP 15 Jun; 4 FLC 25 Jul, 5 Aug; E Otto CATT 16 Aug; 4 Olcott NIAG 16 Aug; DH 24 Aug; decent showing.

Merlin: 2 nests, 4 ad + 2 yg Buffalo ERIE 8 Jun, 30 Jul (PY); cont nesting in the city.

Peregrine Falcon: Porter NIAG 17 Jul; juv Wilson NIAG 18 Aug; only reports away from nesting locations.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: WoBSP 1 Jun; last Alfred ALLE 5 Jun; arr EvSP 14 Aug; five other Aug reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: LBSP 2 Jul (DBem), more evidence of expansion in NIAG, ORLE; last INWR 31 Aug (DBem), recorded.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Lockport NIAG 28 Aug.

Fish Crow: 8 Olcott NIAG 9 Jun (JSt, RW, WD); new Reg maximum.

Common Raven: increasing.

Purple Martin: 410 Batavia GENE 7 Jul; max 8000, 3000 BuSP 28, 30 Aug (AH, CR), coming to roost at Grass Island before dusk.

Tree Swallow: 100 TBNP 24 Aug; max 300 BWWTP 31 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: max 50 Unity I NR 12 Jul.

Barn Swallow: max 125 INWR 1 Aug.

Sedge Wren: N Harmony CHAU 22 Jul (KV); only report.

Swainson's Thrush: 1, 3 AISP 1, 22 Jun; last Buffalo ERIE 5 Jun.

Cedar Waxwing: 779 GHSP, 750 LBSP 1 Jun (JSt, RW, DBem), lakeshore migration.

Purple Finch: 10 Fredonia CHAU 13 Aug; max 15 Orchard Park ERIE 13, 20 Aug.

Pine Siskin: Attica WYOM 1 Jun; 3 Sprague Brook CP 4 Jun; Forestville CHAU 30 Jun; Orchard Park ERIE 30 Jun – 2 Jul, 5, 11 Aug (MZ), probably same bird thru.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2, 1, 1 Krull CP NIAG 8 Jun, 1 Jul, 26 Aug; 1, 1 John White

WMA GENE 12 Jun, 23 Jul; Carlton ORLE 16 Jun; Bond L CP NIAG 29 Jun, new summer location.

Vesper Sparrow: Sheridan CHAU 2 Jun; 2 Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 5 Jun; INWR 25 Jul; only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 1, 1, 2 Buffalo ERIE 3, 4, 27 Jun (SS); 3, 1, 1 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 9 Jun, 1 Jul, 1 Aug; 2 Wilson NIAG 13 Jun; max 6 TRWMA 13 Jun; John White WMA GENE 23 Jul.

Nelson's Sparrow: TBNP 4 Jun (TD ph!), rare spring record.

White-throated Sparrow: max 4 Alfred ALLE 5 Jun.

White-crowned Sparrow: Newfane NIAG 2 Jun (JSt); Wilson NIAG 15 Jun (WD); LBSP 16 Jul (DBem), rare in summer.

Bobolink: max 48 Charlotte CHAU 8 Jun; 26 TWMA 31 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: INWR 9 Jun; 2 Franklinville CATT 12 Jun; LBSP 17 Jun; 2 AISp 21 Jun; Westfield CHAU 24 Jun; 2 WoBSP 17 Aug; 2 Krull CP NIAG 26 Aug; Attica WYOM 31 Aug; apparent increase throughout Reg.

Louisiana Waterthrush: reported from five locations.

Northern Waterthrush: arr TBNP 15 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: 2 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 31 Aug (DC, KS); only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: 2 AISp 1 Jun; Alma ALLE 15 Jun; Carrollton CATT 14 Jul; arr INWR 16 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 3 INWR 17 Jun (DC, DBea), regular breeding location.

Tennessee Warbler: arr 2 BeSP 23 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: Alfred ALLE 1 Jun; 2 Sprague Brook CP ERIE 4 Jun; last PG 6 Jun; arr TBNP 22 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 31 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 3 AISp 22 Jun (DC); 2, 1 INWR 25 Jun, 14 Jul, 3 Aug; known breeding locations.

Northern Parula: 2 AISp 4 Jun; Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 9 Jun; Carrollton CATT 13 Jul; arr Lockport NIAG 31 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: arr OOWMA 22 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 2 Lockport NIAG, Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 31 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr 3 BeSP 23 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last EvSP 5 Jun.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Franklin Gulf CP ERIE 22 Jun (JP), interesting location.

Pine Warbler: arr 2 Tiffet NP 26 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Tiffet NP 21 Jun; Grand Island ERIE 23 Jun, interesting locations for dates; arr 6 Tiffet NP 16 Aug.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TBNP 24 Aug.

Canada Warbler: arr TBNP 18 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: last GHSP 1 Jun; arr WTSP 29 Aug.

REGION 2—GENESEE

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A relatively normal Rochester area summer this year, other than Lake Ontario levels at record highs for most of the season. June started cool and warmed slowly to summer temperatures. Temperatures averaged 66.0° F, 0.2° below normal, with about half the days above and below normal and nine days above 80°. Precipitation totaled 3.94", 0.60" below normal, with over 1/3 of that falling in the 24 hours from 19-20 June. The heaviest rain passed to our south. July was basically warm and dry, starting warm then cool to the 10th and hot and humid after that except for brief breaks. Temperatures averaged 74.1°, 3.3° above normal, with 26 days 80° or higher and five days >90°. Precipitation

totaled 2.64", 0.69" below normal, with 2/3 of that falling on 5-6 July. The last two weeks of the month saw only 0.15" of rainfall. Remnants of Tropical Cyclone Barry passed well to our south but pushed a surge of tropical heat and moisture north and our local heat index to 105° mid-month. August ended the season as a pleasant mid-summer month and a bit on the dry side. Temperatures averaged 70.1°, 0.8° above normal, but with only one day reaching above 90°, a major contrast with last August. Precipitation totaled about half the normal amount at 1.74", 1.73" below normal, with about 1/3 of that total falling on the 17th. There were two periods of severe thunderstorms accompanied by some local wind damage and heavy rains on the 8th and 15th-18th.

Generally, it was a good summer for birding, though the high water was an issue at times, like two years ago, and some prime birding sites were not accessible. The new, constructed barrier beach at the mouth of Braddock Bay off the East Spit produced some good records in spite of difficult access. The weather was also great for growing plants, so vegetation was lush. Each month, nearly all expected species were reported, those missing typically irregular or hard to find. Species totals each month were well above their 10-year averages, August's total near record high. eBird data downloads were near to prior-year numbers or to about 10% higher. The species counts and 10-year averages are: June – 196 vs. 183.2; July – 184 vs. 174.2; and August – 209 vs. 196.3. The eBird download totals were about: 33282, 26354, and 26450, respectively. Off-list rarities were few and will be covered in context following. The fall Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) banding effort was off to a slow start in August.

Moving on through our new taxonomic groupings of species, we still begin with waterfowl. As usual, numbers were relatively low this season, and most special observations were from the south shore of Lake Ontario or the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA), most often in the marshlands at the end of Van Dyne Spoor Rd. in the SE corner of Wayne County, often interchangeably appearing on records as the Sandhill Crane Unit. The only goose record of special note was a Snow Goose seen off and on in the NMWMA and in areas to the south and west into other parts of the Montezuma NWR complex in Region 3. Mute Swans remained most abundant on Irondequoit Bay or on the ponds along the Lake Ontario shore in the Town of Greece. Trumpeter Swan reports were mostly from the NMWMA area, with nesting observed. Other than Mallard, most breeding puddle duck reports and the best counts were from the NMWMA. Numbers increased and more fall arrivals were added in August. Among the more interesting records were: N. Shoveler on Sodus Bay from 10-20 June and arriving on Braddock Bay on 28 August; a record early Eurasian Wigeon found by Tim Lenz in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) on 3 August; 500 Mallards on 27 July and 650 on 30 August in the NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.) area; 100 Blue-winged Teal on

28 August; 43 Northern Pintails in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) on 24 August; and two Green-winged Teal on N. Hamlin Rd. on 2 August.

Diving ducks are always scarce in summer other than the small numbers breeding in the NMWMA or lingering on Lake Ontario plus some early arrivals in August. The most interesting of these were: late White-winged Scoter and Long-tailed Duck off Hamlin Beach State Park on 17 and 17-18 June, respectively; two female Common Goldeneyes on the Seneca River near the NMWMA Morgan Rd. DEC office; Greater Scaup on Braddock Bay on 31 July; Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, and Common Goldeneye in early August along the Lake Ontario shore; and six Ring-necked Ducks on 29 August and Red-breasted Merganser on 31 August at Hamlin Beach. Red-necked Grebe was first reported by Andy Guthrie off Hamlin Beach on 31 July, with several more reports scattered through August, and with Horned Grebe first reported passing off Edgemere Drive, Greece on 31 August.

We next encounter the first Eurasian Collared-Dove report of the year by Mike Wasilco in Parma on 14 July. Among the nightjars, we have only a decent count of 48 Common Nighthawks over Long Pond, Greece, on 4 June and the fall return of two on 23 August. A count of 100 Chimney Swifts at the York Central School in Greiggsville is a preview of the usual larger numbers there in the fall. August again produced the usual high number of 419 lines in eBird of Ruby-throated Hummingbird with the passing of migrants. Last summer, reduced vegetation late in the summer in the NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd./Sandhill Crane Unit) left large numbers of Common Gallinule and American Coot visible. This year there was little vegetation all season over much of the area and peak counts were down quite a bit to 105 Common Gallinules and 180 American Coots in late August. Sandhill Cranes were present all season in both the Town of Richmond in Ontario County north of Honeoye and in the Montezuma complex. The peak Sandhill Crane count was 21 on 21 July in the NMWMA (Morgan Rd. Marshes) area.

Once again, high waters followed by a dry late summer left us with scarce shorebird habitat. However, the beaches and piers on the south shore of Lake Ontario and flooded areas in the NMWMA produced some good shorebirding. In June, we had a good selection of the expected late spring migrants, with Red Knot and Sanderling of less than annual occurrence. Numbers were generally poor, but there were good counts of Semipalmated Sandpiper, with 175 in the Carncross Road area of the NMWMA on 2 June and 154 found on Moscow Road, Town of Hamlin, on 3 June. In July, there were no special weather events like last year; still 19 species of shorebirds were recorded, with records of special interest: American Avocet on the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 11 July and then at Irondequoit Bay Outlet on 22 July; a tie with record early Black-bellied Plover at Sodus Point on 17 July; good counts of 25 Whimbrel at Sodus Point and 38 at Bear Creek on 30 July; Upland Sandpiper in Hamlin on 29 July; and two Willets at Sodus Point on 19 July. August brought more fall arrivals

and 26 species reported. The rarest were American Avocet at East Spit of Braddock Bay on 30 August; Marbled Godwit at Braddock Bay on 30-31 August; and a Western Sandpiper photographed by Mike Gullo at Sodus Point on 28 August. Less rare but scarce were: two Upland Sandpipers back at the Geneseo airfield on 1 August; Whimbrel on several dates through the month; Red Knot at the East Spit on 24 August; and Long-billed Dowitcher there on 31 August.

Among the larids, we had Bonaparte's Gull and some of the terns lingering later into June than their usual mid-month departure dates. A Bonaparte's Gull was even spotted on 1 July—late spring or early fall? In June, most interesting were: a rare immature **Laughing Gull** photographed by Mike Gullo at Sodus Point on the 13th and seen again the next day; a late Iceland "Thayer's" Gull photographed by Joel Strong at Point Breeze, possibly only seen slightly into Region 1, on 14 June; four Lesser Black-backed Gulls; and a first summer large, pale, likely hybrid gull photographed by Joe Wing and seen by others at Sodus Point on 4-5 June. Continuing into July, we find seven more reports for Lesser Black-backed Gull and a couple of good tern counts—138 Caspian Terns at Sodus Point on 31 July and 126 Black Terns at the Van Dyne Spoor Rd. area on 21 July. August was weak for the larids, with the best a lone Parasitic Jaeger passing Hamlin Beach SP on the 31st; a controversial second winter Little Gull photographed at the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 23 August; and only two Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

Both loons were reported into late June, then only a single Common Loon in July and several reports in August; typical. Double-crested Cormorant was good through the season, with a maximum of 600 counted at the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 23 August. American White Pelican was first reported at the south end of Irondequoit Bay on 17 August then in the NMWMA on 18 August. There was little note of wandering herons and egrets, but good reports include: 246 Great Blue Herons and 36 Great Egrets at the Sandhill Crane Unit of the NMWMA on 15 July; Cattle Egret at the Rochester International Airport on 2 July and at the south end of Irondequoit Bay 11-15 July, found by Candy Giles and then seen and photographed by 26+ other observers; and Glossy Ibis seen and photographed in the Carncross Road area of the NMWMA on 2-3 June. Black Vulture was recorded in small numbers in each month.

Turning next to the hawks, we had good numbers of Bald Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk all season, no Northern Goshawk reports, and few Red-shouldered or Broad-winged Hawks away from the hawk watch. An unofficial hawk watch continued at Braddock Bay into June, with peak counts of 95 Turkey Vultures, 20 Bald Eagles, and 49 Broad-winged Hawks on the late date of 25 June. From late July through August, a team of volunteers carried out an official daily hawk watch at Braddock Bay. Earlier, on 11 July, the best day for that month had 45 Turkey Vultures, 67 Bald Eagles, and eight Broad-winged Hawks, with 108 Turkey Vultures the day before and 94 Red-tailed Hawks on 28 July. Mike

Tetlow noted that the high Bald Eagle count was a surprise at that date, as timing and appearance of the birds was not right for the late spring dispersal of southern breeders and it was too early for eagle families near us to be dispersing. Numbers were better in August, with counts at the hawk watch and at the Manitou Beach Road-Owl Woods parking area across the Bay. Peaks were 70 Broad-winged Hawks at Manitou Beach on 8 August and 414 Red-tailed Hawks at the hawk watch on the same date. More daily details can be found at the www.hawkcount.org website. The bird of the month/season was also a raptor, the Region's fifth **Swallow-tailed Kite** spotted passing overhead at the Manitou Beach site by Dave Tetlow on 1 August. All three regular, local falcons were well reported all season. However, the only serious suggestion of Merlin nesting was from Fairport. The Rochester Peregrine Falcons fledged four, three males and a female, all banded 18-21 June. Unfortunately, the female was found dead nearby on 23 June. The others were monitored until they dispersed from the area in July.

Among the non-passerine landbirds, we note only a nice uptick in Red-headed Woodpecker reports in July, with 25 reports from seven locations, and the usual good counts of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker from their breeding areas serving to illustrate possibilities if one searches and counts.

As for the past several summer seasons, essentially all expected passerine species were reported but relatively few rarities. The tail end of spring ended with nearly all the usual late migrants continuing into June. Only Philadelphia Vireo and Cape May Warbler were missed. Some good counts included: 22 Acadian Flycatchers in Letchworth SP by Joe Stevenson on 8 June; seven "Traill's" Flycatchers banded at BBBO on 5 June; 23 Red-eyed Vireos at H. H. Spencer State Recreation Area on 9 June; and 750 Bank Swallows at Beechwood SP in Wayne County on 12 June. June rarities included: a Sedge Wren found at Cranberry Pond, Town of Greece, by Greg Lawrence on 6 June; Clay-colored Sparrow at three sites; Prothonotary Warbler at the usual Armitage Road site in the NMWMA, continuing to be reported to 8 July; and a Yellow-throated Warbler found and photographed by Kyle Gage in Letchworth SP on 23 June. July brought some good counts, with 29 Red-eyed Vireos in the H. H. Spencer State Recreation Area on 4 June; counts of 2000 Tree Swallows, 1000 and 1200 Bank Swallows, and 300 Barn Swallows; and 50 Marsh Wrens in the Braddock Bay marshes by Rhonda Roaring while kayaking on 9 July. BBBO and MAPS banding in the Manitou area on the NW corner of Braddock Bay produced surprises in Nashville Warbler banded on 14, 21, and 22 July, with five banded on the 21st; Magnolia Warbler on 14 July; and Yellow-rumped Warbler on 21 July. Other interesting reports scattered about were: 1-2 Clay-colored Sparrows still reported on Cook Rd., Town of Hamlin, on 14 & 21 July; White-throated Sparrow at Hamlin Beach SP on 16 July; and a Tennessee Warbler in Caledonia, Livingston County, on 13 July. Moving into August and fall arrivals appearing, we ended up with a nice list of 27 warbler species.

Among the more interesting reports were: eight reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher, high for recent years; 19 Least Flycatchers tallied by Andy Guthrie and Chris Wood in the Owl Woods area on 24 August; Clay-colored Sparrow still at Cook Rd. on 10 August; a White-throated Sparrow in the Town of Byron, Genesee County, on 11 August; a White-crowned Sparrow in the Town of Wolcott, Wayne County on 1 August; Prothonotary Warbler seen at Braddock Bay – East Spit by Robert Buckert and Nick Kachala on 20 August; and a Connecticut Warbler found and well described at the 4-Mile Creek Preserve in Webster by Jim Miles at a record early date on 22 August.

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ABBREVIATIONS

B – after a number of individuals indicates banded; **BB** – Braddock Bay, T Greece MONR; **BB-ES** – East spit of Braddock Bay; **BB-HW** – Braddock Bay hawk watch; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, off Manitou Beach Rd, MONR; **CLI** – Conesus L In, including WMA marshes, LIVI; **DE** – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester at Lake Ontario; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T of Hamlin, MONR; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-WE** – trails at west end of park; **HB-YC** – Yanty Creek area of HB; **HHS** – Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area, above S end of Honeoye L ONTA; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – LaSalle Landing P and vicinity at S end of Irondequoit Bay; **ICW** – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M** – Manitou, NW side of Manitou Beach Rd. MONR; **M-OW** – Owl Woods area along Manitou Beach Rd., west side of BB; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P MONR; **NMWMA (CR)** – Northern Montezuma WMA, Carncross Rd.; **NMWMA (MRM)** – Northern Montezuma WMA, Morgan Rd. Marshes, WAYN; **NMWMA (SCU)** – Northern Montezuma WMA, Sandhill Crane Unit often interchangeable with the Van Dyne Spoor Rd. label; **NMWMA (VDS)** – Van Dyne Spoor Rd. area, WAYN; **OB** – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; **PtB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **SB** – Sodus Bay, WAYN; **SPt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, Avon DEC, LIVI.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: NMWMA (SCU) thru; off and on all season.

Mute Swan: max 103 Buck Pd, Greece 5 Jun; 75 IB- S 13, 29 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: max 10 NMWMA (CR) 6 Jun.

Wood Duck: max 200 NMWMA (VDS) 30 Aug (RB, NK).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 BB-ES 21 Jul, unusual loc for date; 2 N. Hamlin Rd 21 Jul, unusual loc for date; max 100 NMWMA (VDS) 28 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: 1 m SPt 10-20Jun, unusual loc for dates; arr 5 BB 28 Aug.

Gadwall: max 45 NMWMA (VDS) 28 Jul, scarce in summer; arr BB 28 Aug.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr NMWMA (SCU) 3 Aug (TLe), Reg record early.

American Wigeon: SPt 21 Jun (JWi), 7-17 Jul (MG, JWi), unusual in summer; arr Beatty Pt, Greece 25 Aug.

Mallard: 500 NMWMA (VDS) 27 Jul; max 650 NMWMA (VDS) 30 Aug; good counts.

American Black Duck: max 12 NMWMA (SCU) 13 Aug, very low max.

Northern Pintail: arr 43 NMWMA (SCU) 24 Aug (TLe, STo), early.

Green-winged Teal: last NMWMA (SCU) 7 Jun (GC), late; N Hamlin Rd 2 Jul (AGu), unusual loc for date; arr 4 BB 20 Aug; max 90 NMWMA (VDS) 30 Aug, usually scarce in summer.

Ring-necked Duck: last TCEA & NMWMA (Deep Muck) 6 Jun; arr 6 NMWMA (VDS) 29 Aug (JC), early.

Greater Scaup: BB 31 Jul (SG, ph), scarce in summer.

Lesser Scaup: 1 f BB-ES 10 Aug (JiM, BeB), scarce in summer.

White-winged Scoter: last HB 17 Jun (AGu), late; HB 3 Aug (DT), scarce in sum.

Long-tailed Duck: last HB 17-18 Jun (AGu), late.

Common Goldeneye: 2 f Seneca R, NMWMA (MRM) 28 Jun (ES, ph), late, unusual loc; BB-ES 10 Aug (MBe), scarce in sum.

Common Merganser: max 45 Beechwood SP WAYN 31 Aug (TLe, LK), good count for date.

Red-breasted Merganser: last HB 24, 26 Jun (AGu), late; arr off Edgemere Dr, Greece 31 Aug.

Ruddy Duck: last 5 NMWMA (VDS) 5 Jun (GD), late.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 75 NMWMA (VDS) 31 Aug, good count.

Horned Grebe: arr off Edgemere Dr, Greece 31 Aug (JiB), early.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 31 Jul (AGu), early; 1-3 HB 7-25 Aug (9 obs), early.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1 T Parma MONR 14 Jul (MW), first for year.

Common Nighthawk: max 48 Long Pond, Greece 4 Jun (KGA); last 2 TCEA 11 Jun; arr 2 Casey P, T Ontario WAYN 23 Aug.

Chimney Swift: max 110 York Central School, Greigsville LIVI 11 Jul (JK).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 419 lines in eBird many loc Aug, *intro*.

RAILS - LARIDS

Com. Gallinule: max 105 NMWMA (VDS) 29 Aug, down from last year, *intro*.

American Coot: max 180 NMWMA (VDS) 31 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: max 21 NMWMA (MRM) 21 Jul (BMcG, SD); 2-3 T Richmond ONTA 1 Jun, 7 Jul, 1, 10 Aug (Eaton Birding Soc, BH); E Lakeshore Marshes WAYN 6 Jun (MG).

AMERICAN AVOCET (R2): arr BB-ES 11 Jul (MT, MG, ph, PMar); IBO 22 Jul (JiM, 11 0th obs, phs); BB-ES 30 Aug (JiM, LMa, 5 0th obs).

Black-bellied Plover: last 6 NMWMA (CR) 5 Jun; arr Spt 17 Jul (MG), Reg record early.

American Golden-Plover: arr Spt 21 Aug; no good counts.

Semipalmented Plover: last 2 Moscow Rd, Hamlin 10 Jun; BB-ES 12 Jul; max 35 T Savannah WAYN 31 Aug, low max.

Killdeer: max 80 off T Webster 21 Aug (PW), low max.

Upland Sandpiper: Hamlin 29 Jul (AGu); 2 Geneseo airfield 1 Aug (JK); now rare.

Whimbrel: arr HB 12 Jul (DKa); 25 Spt 30 Jul (JWi); max 38 Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 30 Jul (JWi); BB 1, 31 Aug; Spt 21-24 Aug, sev ph; 2 Spt 22 Aug, ph.

Marbled Godwit: BB-ES 30-31 Aug (KGr, GL, mob), rare.

Ruddy Turnstone: last 2 BB-ES 5 Jun; arr PtB 20 Jul (AGu, CW), early.

Red Knot: last IBO 14 Jun (JiM), late; arr BB-ES 24 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 NMWMA (VDS) 27 Jul.

Sanderling: last Moscow Rd, Hamlin 5 Jun; arr BB-ES 17 Jul; max 32 Spt 21 Jul (TLe, LK).

Dunlin: last Moscow Rd, Hamlin 11 Jun; arr BB 26 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 2 Spt 13 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 2 last Moscow Rd, Hamlin 3 Jun; arr BB-ES 1 Jul; max 30 NMWMA (SCU) 4 Aug, low max.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (SCU) 5 Aug.

Semipalmented Sandpiper: last BB 19 Jun (SG), late; max 175 NMWMA (CR) 2 June (SPE); 154 Moscow Rd, Hamlin 3 Jun (AGu); arr 3 BB 8 Jul; max 250 BB-ES 23 Jul (RB), good count.

Western Sandpiper: arr Spt 28 Aug (MG, ph, W&MR, DE), scarce.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr BB 15 Jul.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr BB-ES 31 Jul (LBe, ph).

dowitcher sp.: 14 BB 11 Jul (AGu), scarce now.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (SCU) 12 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 6 N. Hamlin Rd 3 Jul; max 27 N. Hamlin Rd 17 Jul, low max.

Willet: 2 Spt 19 Jul (MG, ph, W&MR, JW).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Hogan Pt Rd, Greece 13 Jul.

Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs: BB 28 Jun (SG), interesting date.

Parasitic Jaeger: arr HB 31 Aug (NK).

Bonaparte's Gull: last 2 Spt 24 Jun (MG, W&MR), late; 1 BB-ES 1 Jul (RB), usually scarce at date; arr 2 BB 16 Jul (SG, PMar), early; max 50 SB 14 Aug, low max.

Little Gull: 2nd win BB-ES 23 Aug (RRe, phs), a plumage we almost never see here, some continuing discussion around ID, see P. J. Grant, Gulls: A Guide to Identification, Buteo Books: 1982, pp. 108-109.

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 imm SPt 13, 14 Jun (MG, ph, W&MR).

Iceland "Thayer's" Gull: 1 ad SPt 14 Jun (JStr, ph), late, poss only just west of Reg in Region 1.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 4 rep, 5 ind 3 loc 4-21 Jun; total 7 at 4 loc 6-28 Jul (6 obs); 1 ad OB 14 Aug, ph; 1 2nd sum Summerville Pier 27 Aug; good numbers for summer.

gull sp: large, pale, 1st sum SPt 4-5 Jun (JWi, ph, JWo, W&MR, JMo), hybrid?

Caspian Tern: max 138 SPt 31 Jul (MG).

Black Tern: max 126 NMWMA (VDS) 21 Jul (MT), good count.

Common Tern: max 48 SPt 17 Jun.

Forster's Tern: SPt 21 Jun, 20 Aug (JWi); SPt 26 Aug (MG); only reports.

LOONS - FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: dep HB 24 Jun (AGu), late.

Common Loon: dep HB 1 Jul (AGu), late, only Jul rep; 7 rep HB 5-31 Aug; max 6 HB 24 Aug; CLI 12 Aug (TB).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 600 BB-ES 23 Aug (CGi).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R2): IB-S 17 Aug (DH, PMab); NMWMA 18 Jul (JCo, JWi).

Great Blue Heron: max 246 NMWMA (SCU) 15 Jul (CW, MBa, ES), high count.

Great Egret: max 36 NMWMA (SCU) 15 Jul (CW, MBa, ES), good count.

Cattle Egret: Rochester Int'l Airport 2 Jul (RBI); IB-S 11-15 Jul (CGi, 26+oth obs, phs), rare in sum.

GLOSSY IBIS (R2): NMWMA (CR) 2-3 Jun (8+ obs, many ph), rare.

BLACK VULTURE (R2): 1-2 LSP 9, 22, 23 Jun, 4 Aug (DRA, RSt, SBu, JMcC, KGa, Sba); Pittsford 30 Jul (TSm).

This summer there was an organized, volunteer hawk watch from late July thru August at the BB-HW and across the Bay at the M-OW parking area. Some data is included with the species listing, a more detailed summary is in www.hawkcount.org.

Turkey Vulture: 95 BB-HW 25 Jun; max 108 HANA 10 Jul (PW); 45 & 46 BB-HW 11 & 16 Jul;

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: M-OW 1 Aug (DT), 5th Reg.

Bald Eagle: 20 BB-HW 25 Jun; 67 BB-HW 11 Jul (MT), high for date & sum migr,

origins?, *intro*; 20 BB-HW 6 Aug; 29 M-OW 8 Aug (DT).

Northern Goshawk: no reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 reps Jun; 1 rep Jul; 5 rep Aug, plus 1 & 2 BB-HW 18 & 21 Aug, from hawkcount.

Broad-winged Hawk: 49 BB-HW 25 Jun; 8 BB-HW 11 Jul; 68 BB-HW 6 Aug; max 70 M-OW 8 Aug (DT).

Red-tailed Hawk: 94 BB-HW 28 Jul; 309 BB-HW 6 Aug; 145 SB – Shaker Tract 6 Aug (MT); max 414 BB-HW 8 Aug (DBr, *et. al.*).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 25 rep, 1-3 ind 7 loc Jul, good showing for this Reg.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 11 & 12 at 2 sites HHS 28 Jun (R&SSp); max 13 HHS 4 Jul (BH); typical of counts in breeding areas.

American Kestrel: total ~ 36 ind 30 loc Jun; ~ 40 ind 26 loc Jul; ~ 64 ind 33 loc Aug.

Merlin: nesting pr Fairport 1 Jun (*fide* S. Carroll); Geneseo 13 Jun (JK); HP 24 Jun (R&SSp); ~ 8 ind 7 loc 10-29 Jul; total 10 ind 10 loc Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: total 8 ind 7 loc Jun; total 7 ind 5 loc Jul; total 9 ind 9 loc 1-28 Aug; 3m, 1 f fledged Rochester 18-21 Jun, f found dead 23 Jun, oth tracked thru Jul, *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last DE (CGi) & MP (JMo) 1 Jun; 8 rep 7 loc 15-28 Aug, good number for recent years.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last LSP – Mount Morris Dam 9 Jun (JaG, RRe); arr ICW 10 Aug (BeB), early; total B 7 BBBO 15-23 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 22 LSP 8 Jun (JSt), high count.

"Traill's" Flycatcher: max B 7 BBBO 5 Jun; total B 3 BBBO 15-30 Aug, low.

Willow Flycatcher: max 13 MP 18 Jul (CGo), good count.

Least Flycatcher: max 19 M-OW 24 Aug (AGu, CW); high count; total B 14 BBBO 23-31 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr HB-WE 20 Aug.

Red-eyed Vireo: 23 HHS 9 Jun (NK); max 29 HHS 4 Jul (BH); 20 HB-WE 24 Aug (5 obs); typical high counts; total B 21 BBBO 15-31 Aug.

Horned Lark: max 35 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds, LIVI 13 Aug, low max.

Purple Martin: max 110 Beatty Pt, Greece 25 Aug (CW).

Tree Swallow: max 2000 NMWMA (VDS) 27 Jul (KR,AD).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 200 BB 9 Jul (RRo).

Bank Swallow: 750 Beechwood SP WAYN 12 Jun (SBe, LC-B); 240 HB 24 Jun & 11 Aug (AGu); max 1200 HB-WE 14 Jul (AGu).

Barn Swallow: max 300 MP 26 Jul (CGo).

Winter Wren: total ~12 ind 10 loc Jun, good number; arr HB-YC 20 Aug (R&SSp), early.

SEDGE WREN (R2): Cranberry Pnd area, Greece 6 Jun (GL), now rare in Reg.

Marsh Wren: max 50 BB 9 Jul (RRo), while kayaking.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last MP 7 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: last LSP 16 Jun (KEC); arr 1B BBBBO 31 Aug.

Gray Catbird: max 27 Whiting Rd NP, Webster 15 Aug (GF); total B 76 BBBBO 15-31 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 65 HB 24 Aug, low max.

Pine Siskin: last Caledonia LIVI 19-20 Jun (MW); Greece 2 Jul (RB); LSP 24 Jul (TB); scaece mid-sum.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-2 Cook Rd, Hamlin 3-8 Jun, 14, 21 Jul, 10 Aug (sev obs); Honeoye Crk WMA 1-4 Jun (15+ obs); 2 Ganondagan survey 17 Jun (CJ, HN).

Savannah Sparrow: max 28 Nations Rd survey 4 Jun (MW), good count.

Grasshopper Sparrow: ~ 35 ind 14 loc Jun, good numbers.

Song Sparrow: total B 20 BBBBO 15-29 Aug, high banding number.

White-throated Sparrow: last Webster 4 Jun (AGw); Highland Ave, Rochester 20 Jun (JL); HHS 28 Jun (R&SSp); HB 16 Jul (AGu); T Byron GENE 11 Aug (DBea); interesting dates & loc.

White-crowned Sparrow: Cemetery Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 1 Aug (W&MR), unusual date for loc.

Bobolink: max 56 Nations Rd survey (MW); 50++ flyovers T Canadice ONTA 20 Aug (BH); good counts.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 4000 NMWMA (SCU) 31 Aug.

Common Grackle: max 1016 T LeRoy MONR 25 Jul (MW), good count.

Ovenbird: max 15 LSP 8 Jun (JSte).

Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler: LSP 22 Jun (SBu); 2 Pittsford 16 Jul (MLa).

Black-&-white Warbler: arr HB-WE 24 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-2 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) thru 23 Jun (mob), 6-8 Jul (JBri, RK, EZ), nesting; 1 ad 3 FL NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 15 Jun (STo), with audio in eBird; BB-ES 20 Aug (RB, NK).

Tennessee Warbler: last DE & MP 1 Jun; Caledonia LIVI 13 Jul (SBu, JMcC); arr 2B BBBBO 16 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: 1B, 5B, 1B BBBBO 14, 21, 22 Jul; arr Ellison P, T Penfield 8 Aug (JiM).

Connecticut Warbler: Four-Mile Crk Preserve, Webster 22 Aug (JiM), Reg record early.

Mourning Warbler: BBBBO area 26-27 Jun (RB, 4 oth obs), unusual loc for date; arr BB-ES 10 Aug (BeB).

American Redstart: max 18 HHS 9 Jun (NK); total B 16 BBBBO 15-31 Aug, good number.

Cape May Warbler: arr Ellison P, T Penfield 20 Aug (JiM).

Magnolia Warbler: 1B BBBBO 14 Jul, unusual date for loc; arr T Ontario WAYN 20 Aug (JWi); total B 1 BBBBO 30 Aug, very low.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Cranberry Pd, Greece 6 Jun; arr M-OW 24 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr M-OW 24 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: max 21 HB 9, 10 Aug, low max; total B 52 BBBBO 15-31 Aug, high number B.

Blackpoll Warbler: last North PNDS P, Webster 12 Jun (JiM); arr MP 31 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Cranberry Pnd Trail, G 1 Jun; arr Jones Bridge & Perry Rds LIVI 25 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1B BBBBO 21 Jul, unusual date for loc.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R2): LSP 23 Jun (KGa, ph).

Canada Warbler: last 1B BBBBO 5 Jun; arr 1B BBBBO 20 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: last G 1 Jun; arr Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 23 Aug.

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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June and August 2019 were cooler and wetter than normal. July was warmer and slightly drier than normal. In Ithaca, in June, the average high temperature was 74.3° F, 1.7° below normal, the average low was 52.1°, 1.2° below normal, and the total precipitation was 5.47", 1.48" more than normal. The average high temperature in July was 81.7°, 1.8° above normal, the average low was 60.4°, 2.7° above normal, and the total precipitation was 3.72", 0.11" below normal. In August, the average high temperature was 77.7°, 0.9° below normal, the average low was 54.3°, 2.0° below normal, and the total precipitation was 4.81", 1.18" above normal.

Waterfowl were present in the Region in good numbers and diversity. Observers reported high numbers of Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, Mallards, Green-winged Teal, and Double-crested Cormorants in August. Small numbers of Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Common Loons lingering into early June were nonetheless high summer counts for those species. Other lingerers from spring migration included Tundra Swan, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye. Unusual species were a **Red-throated Loon** that Jessie Barry and Chris Wood saw on Cayuga Lake on 1 June, and a **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** that Carol Cedarholm found at SST Park in Ithaca 17 June. Many observers were able to enjoy seeing this bird during its 10-day stay. Tim Lenz found two **Red-necked Grebes** at Lakefront Park on **20 July**. David Wheeler first reported an **American White Pelican** at Montezuma NWR in mid-August. Logan Kahle found an early **Eurasian Wigeon** at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on 31 August.

Shorebird species reported in high numbers were Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, and Semipalmated Sandpiper in June, and American Golden-Plover and Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs in August. Greg Dashnau found a **Black-necked Stilt** in Montezuma NWR in early June. The stilt continued to be seen over the next three weeks. Wesley Hochachka found two **Red Knots** at Montezuma NWR on 2 June. They were last seen that afternoon.

High counts for Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, and Great Black-backed Gulls all occurred in August. Observers reported a high count of Common Terns in June, a high count of Black Terns in July, and a high count of Forster's Terns in August.

Waders reported in high numbers were Sandhill Cranes and Great Egrets, both in August and both at Montezuma NWR. Dave Kennedy found a **Glossy**

Ibis in early June and a **Snowy Egret** in late August at Montezuma NWR. Tim Lenz found the Region's first **White Ibis** at Montezuma NWR in late August.

For raptors, observers reported high counts of Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. High counts were also reported for Red-headed, Red-bellied, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers. Miscellaneous species with high counts included Mourning Dove, Horned Lark, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Marsh Wren. Steven Benedict discovered a singing **Sedge Wren** while doing a grassland bird survey at Montezuma NWR in late July. The bird continued there for a few days.

Nocturnally migrating Swainson's Thrushes over Northeast Ithaca on 31 August produced a summer high count for that species. The maximum counts for Hermit and Wood Thrushes, however, were low counts for those species. Observers reported high counts of Purple Finches and American Goldfinches. William Evans observed an **Evening Grosbeak** in early July in Newfield. Nita Irby also observed one in Dryden in mid-August. Estevao Santos and Chris Wood saw and recorded **Red Crossbills** in Summerhill State Forest in early June.

There were high counts for Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. Michael Palermo found the Region's only **Clay-colored Sparrow**, in Hopewell. The growing population of Orchard Orioles in the Region yielded a high count at Salt Point Natural Area.

High counts for the Region's breeding species of warblers included Blackburnian, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Pine, and Prairie Warblers. High counts of transient species included Cape May, Blackpoll, and Wilson's Warblers. On 17 August, Gregg Dashnau was the first of several observers at Montezuma NWR to hear and identify the Region's only **Dickcissel**. The bird continued to give flyby calls and, rarely, sightings through the end of the season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CP – City Pier, ONTA; **CygL** – Cayuga L; **FLNF** – Finger Lakes National Forest; **LP** – Lakefront P; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **NEI** – Northeast Ithaca; **RHPP** – Roy H P Preserve, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SHSF** – Shindagin Hollow State Forest, TOMP; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SSF** – Summerhill State Forest, CAYU; **StP** – SSt P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby, TOMP; **TVar** – T Varick, SENE; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: StP 17-26 Jun (mob, ph).
Snow Goose: max 16 SLSP 2 Jun.
Mute Swan: MNWR 23 Jun; T Lodi SENE 5-18 Jul; Hornell 4-24 Aug; MNWR 15 Aug.
Tundra Swan: Horseheads Marsh CHEM thru 28 Jun (mob, ph).
Wood Duck: max 480 MNWR 25 Aug (JMc!), high.
Blue-winged Teal: max 60 MNWR 25 Aug (mob!), high.
Northern Shoveler: max 55 MNWR 25 Aug (mob), high.
Eurasian Wigeon: MNWR 31 Aug (LK!), early.

Mallard: max 2000 MNWR 8 Aug (TLe); 2000 MNWR 22 Aug (JMc, LS), high.

Northern Pintail: last 4 MNWR 15 Jun, early; arr 8 MNWR 9 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: max 300 MNWR 31 Aug (mob), high.

Ring-necked Duck: StP 9 Jun; MNWR 19 Aug.

Greater Scaup: SenL 9 Jun thru (mob).

Lesser Scaup: max 5 LP SENE 2 Jun (TLe!), high.

BLACK SCOTER (R3): last CygL, TVar 1 Jun (JMc, LS!).

Long-tailed Duck: last CygL, TVar 1 Jun (JMc, LS).

Bufflehead: max 8 SLSP 2 Jun (TLe), high; 1-8 SLSP thru 20 Jul.

Common Goldeneye: last CygL, TVar 1 Jun; 2 LP SENE 20 Jul (TLe).

Hooded Merganser: max 11 Myers Pt TOMp 17 Jul (JMc), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 4 SenL SENE 7-8 Jun (DCz, ph), high.

RED-NECKED GREBE (R3): 2 LP SENE 20 Jul (TLe, ph).

Mourning Dove: 208 NEI 26 Aug (TSc!), high.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 9 MNWR 10 Aug, low.

RAILS-LARIDS

Sandhill Crane: max 25 MNWR 23 Aug (JBa, CW!), high.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: MNWR 5-23 Jun (mob, ph).

American Golden-Plover: arr MNWR 24 Aug; max 58 MNWR 31 Aug (mob!), high.

Semipalmented Plover: last 8 MNWR 5 Jun; max 100 MNWR 2 Jun (TLe), high; arr MNWR 22 Jul.

Killdeer: max 34 MNWR 3 Aug, low.

Upland Sandpiper: T Seneca Falls SENE 8 Jul.

Whimbrel: arr MNWR 29 Aug, late.

Ruddy Turnstone: last CP 3 Jun; MNWR 3 Jun; max 46 MNWR 2 Jun (WH!), high; arr MNWR 13 Aug.

Red Knot: 2 MNWR 2 Jun (mob, ph).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr MNWR 18 Jul; max 12 MNWR 29 Aug.

Sanderling: last MNWR 6 Jun; arr MNWR 5 Aug.

Dunlin: max 30 MNWR 1-2 Jun; last 3 T Tyre SENE 9 Jun; arr 6 MNWR 31 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 18 Aug; max 2 MNWR 25 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 50 MNWR 3 Jun; arr MNWR 9 Jul; max 120 MNWR 25 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 2 Jun; arr & max 7 MNWR 11 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 13 Jul; max 12 MNWR 31 Aug.

Semipalmented Sandpiper: last MNWR 11 Jun; max 1300 MNWR 3 Jun (TLe!), high; arr 3 MNWR 14 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr CP 6 Jul (BHo), early; max 42 MNWR 25 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 2 Aug; max 5 MNWR 17 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: last Goetchius Preserve 5 Jun; arr 3 MNWR 15 Jul; max 21 MNWR 8 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr MNWR 30 Jun.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 MNWR 30 Jun; max 300 MNWR 19 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 2 Jul; max 200 MNWR 25 Aug (mob), high.

Wilson's Phalarope: MNWR 17-19 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 LP SENE 13 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: last 2 Paine's Creek mouth CAYU 8 Jun; SLSP 8 Jun; arr CygL SP 28 Jun (KBu, ph), early; max 8 Myers Pt TOMp 24 Aug (JMc, LS), high.

Laughing Gull: MNWR 16 Aug thru (mob, ph); SenL, Geneva 21 Aug (TLe!).

Ring-billed Gull: max 4000 LP SENE 24 Aug (TLe), high.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: StP 14-22 Jul (TLe, JMc, LS).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 15 LP ONTA 21 Aug (TLe), high.

Black Tern: max 48 MNWR 8 Jul (EZ), high.

Common Tern: max 11 LP SENE 2 Jun (TLe!), high.

Forster's Tern: 2 SenL, Geneva 17 Aug (TLe!); max 10 CP 28 Aug (KG, ph), high.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: last Aurora High Banks CAYU 1 Jun (JBa, CW), late.

Common Loon: max 35 CygL, TVar 1 Jun (JMc, LS), high.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 750 Ithaca 24 Aug (DNI), high.

American White Pelican: 1-2 MNWR 16 Aug thru (mob, ph).

Great Egret: max 207 MNWR 23 Aug (JBa, CW!), high.

Snowy Egret: MNWR 21-24 Aug (mob, ph).

WHITE IBIS: MNWR 28 Aug (mob, ph).

Glossy Ibis: MNWR 2 Jun (DK, ph).

Turkey Vulture: max 105 Stevenson Rd compost piles TOMp 16 Aug (JMc), high.

Bald Eagle: max 34 MNWR 1 Jun (JMc, LS), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 4 Trumansburg 12 Aug (JD, ph), high.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 Robert Treman SP 23 Jun (BGa), high.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 8 SHSF 11 Jun (JCu, WL, AS), high.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 6 TDan 14 Jul (MGI), high.
Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Finger Lakes Trail SCHU 23 Jul (CW!), high.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last SW 4 Jun; arr TVE 14 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 SW 6 Jun; arr Jim Schug Trail TOMP 10 Aug.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Owasco L Inlet CAYU 18 Jun, low.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr NEI 26 Aug.
Horned Lark: max 32 T Fayette SENE 8 Aug (TLe!), high.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 10 TVE 10 Jul (JoCo), high.
Sedge Wren: MNWR 27 Jul-1 Aug (mob, rec).
Marsh Wren: max 62 MNWR Jun 1 (JMc!, LS), high.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 2 SW 4 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: last FLNF SCHU 8 Jun (JBa, CW!), late; arr NEI 18 Aug; max 10 NEI 31 Aug (JMc), high, nocturnal.
Hermit Thrush: max 5 SW 22 Jun; 5 Beaver Dams 4 Jul; 5 T Brooktondale TOMP 4 Aug, low.
Wood Thrush: max 8 TDan 29 Aug, low.
Evening Grosbeak: T Newfield TOMP 2-4 Jul (WEv); T Dryden TOMP 18 Aug (NI).
Purple Finch: max 14 TVE 24 Jun (JoCo); 14 TVE 11-12 Jul (JoCo), high.
Red Crossbill: 5 SSF 9 Jun (ES, CW, rec); SSF 15 Jun (AK, ST, rec).
Pine Siskin: NEI 1 Jun; FLNF SCHU 12 Jun; 2 Addison 15 Jun; RHPP 22 Jun.
American Goldfinch: max 85 MNWR 25 Aug (NK, GL), high.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 14 Long Pt SP 3 Aug (BS), high.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-2 T Hopewell ONTA 8-23 Jun (MiP, rec).
Savannah Sparrow: max 45 T Seneca Falls SENE 19 Jun (DSh, MT), high.
Song Sparrow: max 68 MNWR 4 Jul (DDa!), high.

White-throated Sparrow: 2 East Ithaca Recreation Way 1 Jun; 1-2 SSF 14 Jun thru; 2 RHPP 22 Jun; 2 FLNF SCHU 2 Jul; 2 T Groton TOMP 15 Jul; 2 TDan 18 Jul.
Orchard Oriole: max 8 Salt Pt Natural Area 16 Jul (JMc!), high.
Ovenbird: max 18 TVE 6 Jun; 18 SHSF 11 Jun, low.
Worm-eating Warbler: Taughannock Falls SP 6 Jul; Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve 14 Jul.
Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 5 Jun; last Watkins Glen SP 13 Aug.
Golden-winged Warbler: NEI 25 Aug (TSc!).
"Brewster's" Warbler: The Boyd Farm CHEM 31 Aug (BO!, JO).
"Lawrence's" Warbler: FLNF SCHU 12 Jun (mob, ph, rec).
Mourning Warbler: max 5 Arnot Forest TOMP 1 Jun, low.
Cape May Warbler: arr Monkey Run TOMP 26 Aug; max 6 RHPP 30 Aug (JMc), high.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SW 23 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 15 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 14 Jul (JMc, LS), high.
Yellow Warbler: max 50 MNWR 7 Jun (DSh, MT), high.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 20 Arnot Forest TOMP 7 Jun (JMc, LS), high.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 4 T Aurelius CAYU 1 Jun (JBa, CW), high; last Owasco L Inlet CAYU 6 Jun; arr The Boyd Farm CHEM 31 Aug.
Pine Warbler: max 6 TVE 24 Jun (JoCo); 6 TVE 16 Jul (JoCo), high.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 4 SSF 7 Jul, low.
Prairie Warbler: max 7 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 4 Jun (AP), high.
Wilson's Warbler: last Durland Preserve TOMP 2 Jun; arr RHPP 17 Aug (Harikrishnan CP, Matthew D Medler!), early; max 2 TVE 29 Aug (JoCo), high.
Scarlet Tanager: max 7 SHSF 12 Jul; 7 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 14 Jul, low.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 10 TVE 15 Jun-13 Jul, low.
Dickcissel: MNWR 17 Aug thru (mob, ph).

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

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June 2019 was a bit cooler than average regarding temperature and slightly wetter than normal. July was three degrees warmer than the long-term norm and was slightly drier than average. August was slightly cooler than normal but was about average in terms of rainfall.

Common Gallinules again bred in Chenango County in a Sherburne marsh. Fifteen birds, including thirteen juveniles in various stages of development, were seen there. This was the third year in a row that breeding has been reported in this marsh. There were perhaps ten blocks reporting possible or confirmed breeding during the 2000-2005 atlas work in the Region, so it is not a very common breeder in the Region.

Conveniently visible from a viewing platform at Pharsalia State Forest two adult Sandhill Cranes were photographed and confirmed nesting on 21 June by Mike DeWispelaere. He reported that this nest appeared to be their second attempt, and on 24 June it looked as though they were off the nest and might be tending young, but no colts were seen. There was also a third bird that appeared to be sitting on a nest nearby, but the location was obscured by high grass. Unfortunately, no colts were ever seen. In previous NY Breeding Bird Atlas projects begun in 1980 and 2000, there were no reports of Sandhill Cranes breeding in the Region.

In late August there were several reports of good numbers of Common Nighthawks migrating through the Region, many of which were seen near the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers.

Regarding migrating shorebirds, there was just one pair of Sanderlings seen in the Region in late August compared to multiple reports of Sanderlings last year. On 28 August three Black-bellied plovers were photographed in a marsh in Sherburne, and on 30 August an American Golden Plover was also seen and photographed in Chenango County.

There were 208 reports of Great Egrets in the Region from mid-July thru August compared to 27 reports in the 2018 summer season. It seemed that Great Egrets were both widespread and relatively numerous. Perhaps low water levels in the rivers made for better habitat, but it really is unknown, at least to me, why there was such an increase.

A Black Vulture was sighted over Owego on 12 June during a Breeding Bird Survey, and there was speculation that it could have been nesting in the area. In the 2000-2005 atlas work there were two blocks with reports of possible breeding in the Region, both in Delaware County.

Swainson's Thrushes were recorded singing in New Michigan State Forest on 8 and 9 July by different observers. However, there were no reports in the Region of confirmed nesting. The use of audio recordings in eBird seems to be on the increase which is great for documenting breeding behaviors, especially for rare breeding birds in the Region like the Swainson's Thrush.

In contrast to last season with multiple reports and good numbers, there was only one report of a Pine Siskin. Red Crossbills were also scarce with only four reports.

In total, 28 species of warblers were seen in the Region for the season, which included Prothonotary and Cerulean Warblers. This number of species is about average for the Region.

In summary, 181 species (last year 182) were reported, with some interesting rarities and vocalizations for the Region. If there is a reasonable number of reports I try to eliminate duplicate reports on the same day by different observers when reporting the number of reports in the Region. There were 44,459 observations in eBird for our Region, so I want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqTP – Aqua-Terra P, BROO; **BoPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; **CaGr** – Carantouan Greenway, TIOG; **CannRes** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch, DELA; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NMSF** – New Michigan State Forest, CHEN; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusR** – Susquehanna Ri, BROO; **TomakRd** – Candor, TIOG; **UL** – Upper Lisle P, BROO; **WHP** – William Hill P, Johnson City, BROO.

WATERFOWL - HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 2 Pd Deposit DELA 6 Jun-31 Jul; CannRes 4-24 Aug.
Gadwall: 3 WHP 1 Aug, ph, only rep.
Green-winged Teal: 5 SHM 28 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: 2 SHM 3-7 Jun.
Pied-billed Grebe: MHL 1 Jun-31 Aug.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 35 reports throughout Region.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 69 reports throughout Region.
Common Nighthawk: max 30 Johnson City BROO 26 Aug; 20 Owego TIOG 28 Aug; 17 Vestal BROO 28 Aug; 15 MHL 28 Aug; 30 other scattered rep most in late Aug, good numbers.
Chimney Swift: max 250 WHP 30 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: widely noted, 623 lines in eBird, many from feeders.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 6 SHM 31 Aug, 2 ad, 4 juv, ph; 4 MHL 14 Jul, recording, mob; TomakRd 21 Aug.
Sora: max 3 MHL 6 Jun; MHL Jul 14, recording, mob.
Common Gallinule: 15 SHM 13 Aug, 2 ad, 13 juv, ph, intro; MHL 31 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 4 Pharsalia SF CHEN 2 Jun, 4 ad; 3 Pharsalia SF CHEN 28 Jun, 3 ad, CO, but no colts seen (MD), *intro*.
Black-bellied Plover: 3 SHM 28 Aug, ph, only rep.
American Golden Plover: Kilroy Rd CHEN 30 Aug, ph, only rep.
Semipalmated Plover: max 7 BoPd 2 Jun.
Sanderling: 2 SusR 28 Aug, ph, mob.
Least Sandpiper: max 17 SHM, 29 Aug, ph.
Pectoral Sandpiper: SHM 10 & 14 Aug.
Wilson's Snipe: 7 SHM 14 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 18 SusR 29 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 8 Cornell Ln Hartford CORT 27 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Pd Deposit DELA 29 Jun; TomakRd 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr WHP 12 Jul.
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 UL 12 Aug.
Caspian Tern: arr 2 UL 12 Aug.
Black Tern: UL 11 Aug.

LOONS - FALCONS

Common Loon: max 3 CannRes 31 Aug.

American Bittern: MHL 1 JUN; Davenport Center DELA 19 Jun; E. Maine Rd Johnson City BROO 5 Jul.

Great Egret: max 10 UL 28 Jul; 208 rep thru Region, *intro*.

Black Vulture: Owego TIOG 12 Jun, *intro*.

Osprey: 3 Colliersville OTSE 4 Aug; approx. 45 rep throughout Region.

Bald Eagle: many reports, very widespread.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 25 scattered rep.

Eastern Screech-Owl: Palmer Rd Sherburne CHEN 12 Jun, juv, ph.

American Kestrel: max 9 T Plymouth CHEN 12 Aug; 6 TomakRd 22 Aug.

Merlin: max 4 Cortland CORT 13 Jul; TomakRd 15 Jun.

Peregrine Falcon: max 4 Binghamton BROO 4 Jun, 2 ad 2 juv, many rep of resident downtown pr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-Sided Flycatcher: 2 Downsville DELA 6 Jun; AqTP 20 Aug; T German CHEN 21 Aug; FMHW 25 Aug; TomakRd 19 & 27 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: OTSE 21 & 24 Aug; TomakRd 27 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: Cranberry Bog Rd Natural Area OTSE 1 Jul.

Horned Lark: 4 Cornell Ln Hartford CORT 15 Jun.

Purple Martin: Lockheed Martin Pd TIOG 12 Aug.

Winter Wren: max 6 NMSF 22 Jun.

Marsh Wren: most reports from BoPd and MHL.

Eastern Bluebird: max 23 TomakRd 24 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: NMSF 8 & 9 Jul, recordings, *intro*.

Red Crossbill: 4 rep from state forests in CHEN.

Pine Siskin: Smyrna CHEN 18 Jun, feeder, ph, only rep.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: T Bovina DELA 2 Jun, only rep.

Bobolink: max 72 TomakRd 24 Jul.

PHOTO GALLERY SUMMER 2019



Two black-and-white shearwaters, near Hudson Canyon, *Suffolk*, 22 Jul 2019:
Audubon's Shearwater (top) and Manx Shearwater (bottom), © Sean Sime.



Clay-colored Sparrow, Albany Pine Bush Preserve, *Albany*, 1 Jun 2019, © Scott Stoner.



Carolina Wren, *Albany*, 31 Aug 2019, © Scott Stoner.



LeConte's Sparrow, Willsboro Pt, Essex, 12 Aug 2019, © Derek Rogers.



American White Pelican, Montezuma NWR-Knox Marsellus and Puddler Marshes, Seneca, 31 Aug 2019, © Kyle Gage.



Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Middletown, Orange, 18 Jun 2019 (top) and 21 May 2019 (bottom), © Joyce Depew. See article, pp. 314-316.

Orchard Oriole: max 2 Lockheed Martin Pd
22 Jun; 2 MHL 19 Jun; Daisy Hollow Rd
CORT 2 Jun.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 3 Griggs Gulf
SF CORT 6 Jun-9 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: Walnut Grove Hill
Rd OTSE 28 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 5 Morgan Hill SF
CORT 27 Jun; Tomak Rd 28 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: max 6 High Vista Nature
Preserve CORT 16 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: High Vista Nature
Preserve CORT 16 & 17 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: MHL 1 Jun, only rep.

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Weather during summer 2019 was unremarkable overall but for the exceptionally high water levels that continued from spring. Most of the west barrier bar at Fair Haven continued to be flooded, with some low-lying but normally dry spots under as much as 12" of water. Matters improved throughout June and July with entrance road and paths eventually passable by car and on foot. A similar scenario played out elsewhere along Lake Ontario, with flooding in low-lying areas improving slowly throughout the summer but remaining much higher than normal for the date. Inland water, especially Onondaga Lake, was also much higher than normal with only a little mud emerging at the south end in late August. June average temperature for Syracuse was within a degree of historical norms, but rainfall was 1.08" higher at 4.39". Mid-July brought us our only real heat wave and the month averaged 85.6 ° F, a substantial 4.0° above average and with eight days above 90° (compared to a typical of three). August was quiet with no hot days (above 90°) recorded and average temps, but with 5.20" rain, 1.63" more than normal. The authors wonder to what extent high water levels in June affected ground nesting birds.

Trumpeter Swans were confirmed nesting by Gregg Dashnau at Three Rivers WMA for the second year in a row. Six young were hatched. Pairs were reported in mid June from the Rte 6 marsh in Volney and Beaver Lake, but nesting status is unknown. Successful nesting in the Howland Island area continues and a pair in northern Cayuga County will likely try if they haven't already. Joe Carey reported Blue-winged Teal with eight chicks, a scarce nester in the Region, from the pond at Sterling Nature Center. Fewer than normal Green-winged Teal were reported in August, perhaps due to high water levels.

Bill Lenhart found a Common Goldeneye on 15 June at Sunday Lake, a remote location north of Old Forge. The bird, a female or immature male, is intriguing as a possible nester for the area. An injured Greater Scaup was seen in August at Oswego Harbor. Gary Meyers reported a good year for nesting Hooded Mergansers at the Madison Street impoundment in Hamilton, while Common Merganser sightings came mostly from the Region's northeast area. Elizabeth Frascatore found Ruddy Ducks nesting at the McKoons Road marsh in Herkimer County and reported four chicks, another unusual nesting species for the Region. August was exceptionally poor for dispersing dabbling ducks, with usual hotspots like Delta Lake having high water and little edge habitat.

Matt Perry found a Common Nighthawk in downtown Utica on 4 July. The species formerly nested atop gravel-covered roofs in upstate NY but is thought mostly absent now. The bird was likely a failed nester or immature bird as its continued presence would have been noticed during the Utica Peregrine Falcon fledge watch. Still, the authors hope some may persist, unnoticed, flying above the cities of central NY around dusk. Frank Brosch recorded a calling Whippoor-will from his home south of Oswego on 8 June, and included excellent audio with his eBird checklist. The species is considered a late-April/early-May migrant along the Ontario lakeshore but is virtually unknown there in June. The bird, likely an immature, was in an undeveloped area and perhaps happy to have moths over the city all to itself. Gary Lee reports that 45 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded at the Stillwater Hotel in northern Herkimer County on 6 July. This seems to be a typical number for the site and its ample feeders, but an impressive count nonetheless. Along Onondaga Lake's west shore near the Nine Mile Creek outlet, Gregg Dashnau confirmed breeding of Common Gallinule for the first time in many years. Five adults and eight young were seen, increasing to 16 total birds by late July and 19 in mid-August. Habitat restoration along the west shore seems to have paid off for the species, likely absent from the area since the 1970s when the outlet area sustained a cattail marsh. Phragmites had completely taken over for at least the last 20 years, with the associated loss of marsh nesters. While west shore development/restoration may have claimed the lake's Bank Swallow colony with removal of the waste-bed bluffs, efforts may finally be paying off for other species. Several American Coots were seen starting in late July but are not thought to have bred there (yet). Molly Jacobson reported eight Sandhill Cranes from Cook Pond on Howland Island on 4 August. Some juveniles were seen but it is not known whether they nested on the island or in the now-traditional nearby areas of Wayne County. Another crane was seen flying over Ditch Bank Road in Madison County on 28 June, a possible nester in the area, and Matt Brown observed a flyby at Deer Creek Marsh on 2 June.

Shorebird migration, much of which occurs during the summer reporting period, was average to poor for both northbound and southbound birds. Exceptionally-high water levels along Lake Ontario in early June continued

through the period and flooded much shoreline habitat. At Sandy Pond, none of the usual north-spit beach was exposed during the period, and little of the south-spit beach also. David Wheeler estimated the Carl Island sandbar was under 1-2 feet more water than normal, with no chance of emerging in time for use by gulls, terns, and shorebirds. Recreational pressure on the area is extreme under the best of circumstances, but Piping Plovers again nested successfully at Sandy Island Beach State Park under the watchful eye of park personnel. Three chicks were hatched and two were known to fledge, with most human users respectful of the situation. The female bird was known to leave first for points south, the male left to attend to matters into late-July. The authors hope continued cooperation among stakeholders will assure the success of these special nesters, absent from the Region since the early 1970s. Elsewhere, Drew Weber found a single Black-bellied Plover with 40 American Golden-Plover at the Sky-high Turf Farm in Lakeport. Another Black-bellied was seen at Sandy Pond. No Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found through the end of August. A single Upland Sandpiper, not seen during spring at the Oswego County airport in Fulton, was found by Gregg Dashnau on 26 July. The airport grounds are large and adjacent to a capped, grassy landfill that contains much habitat for the species. Hopefully it continues there. Whimbrel were seen twice at both Sandy Pond and Fair Haven with Mike Gullo tallying five birds on 19 August. Ruddy Turnstone was reported but a single time, on 22 July. Deborah Dohne found a Stilt Sandpiper at the south end of Onondaga Lake in spite of high water levels.

Black Tern went unreported for the Region, save for a single bird seen cruising only feet over the Wayne/Cayuga County line by David Wheeler while kayaking the Seneca River west of Howland Island and in the Region 'in name only.' Two more under identical circumstances were seen the next day. The Region's main hope for the species to continue as a nester lies with Deer Creek Marsh north of Port Ontario. While not reported there this summer, difficult access is hopefully to blame. Sandy Pond hosted a late nesting attempt by a Common Tern pair, likely frustrated by high water levels a month earlier. Eggs were laid in mid-July amid incredible disturbance by recreational users. On one visit, Wheeler observed boaters playing horseshoes within 20 feet of the roped-off nest. The terns incubated faithfully early on, dealing with matters surprisingly well, but were often absent thereafter. While the eggs may not have been viable due to constant flushing of the birds, they suddenly disappeared overnight in late-July. A trail cam set up at the site caught the culprit, a fox. After all the human disturbance and efforts to protect the nest therefrom, things came to a thoroughly natural end. Other sightings at Sandy Pond included a dead Least Bittern on the Lake side, a known nester in the pond's northeast marsh, but noted by Wheeler as his first ever for the channel area. Gary Kosmoski photographed an **American White Pelican** near the south shore of Oneida Lake east of Lakeport. It was not seen again. Mary Magistro had the good luck to photograph a flyby Black-crowned Night-Heron from the bluff at

Fort Ontario on 22 June. Seen off and on at Oswego Harbor over the years, the species is thought to nest in Snake Swamp west of the city. It continues as a scarce breeder known only from a few spots. Kevin Topping found a **Black Vulture** in Herkimer County on 30 August.

The inaccessible wilderness of northern Herkimer County contains boreal nesters, presumably at lower density than found in the higher elevations of the central Adirondacks. Bill Lenhart found a Black-backed Woodpecker at Sunday Lake, a very remote spot 15 miles north-northwest of Old Forge. The species has a long history in the area and is found occasionally in swamps closer to the village. Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in traditional locations such as Fair Haven, Verona Beach, and the central portion of Oneida Lake's north shore. Two seen at Toad Harbor on 3 July were likely nesting. Meanwhile, a pair continued at Derby Hill and were thought by Gerry Smith to be nesting east of the north lookout. Matt Brown found four at Sandy Pond on 11 August, presumably a family group, and an unusual location. Utica's Peregrine Falcon fledgling watch followed the antics of the adults and four fledglings as they fine-tuned their skills before dispersing in late July.

Though it may contain suitable nesting habitat, an Acadian Flycatcher heard at the west-side parking lot on Howland Island on 1 June was not found again. A bird continues holding territory at Sterling Nature Center and is hopefully nesting successfully there. One or possibly two pairs continue at Whiskey Hollow, a traditional location. Though Region 5 lies at the northern edge of the species range, more nesters are likely present in the dark ravines of the 'southern highlands' area of Madison and Onondaga Counties. Perhaps these will be found during the upcoming Breeding Bird Atlas III. Common Ravens have indeed become fairly common, with 248 separate reports submitted to eBird during the season. Gregg Dashnau observed 25 Cliff Swallows on 28 August at Oswego Harbor. The bird has traditionally nested on the library building at SUNY-Oswego thus they were presumably of local origin, staging before heading south. David Wheeler recalls finding the nests while atlasing during summer 2003, with House Sparrows commandeering a few and seeming 'out of place' so high up. Destruction of Cliffie nests on commercial buildings continues to be a problem, with Wheeler noting that nests in a shopping center in Cicero disappeared suddenly in early June. The swallows rebuilt, one glob of mud at a time, and were hopefully undisturbed until fledging. Some of the nests were only seven feet above the ground. An excellent initiative for local bird clubs would be to communicate and educate store managers about the birds and their protected status.

Throughout July Gregg Dashnau monitored a singing Sedge Wren at Three Rivers WMA, a second confirmed on 6 August. In a summary to the authors Dashnau wrote of the thick weeds at the area and the skulky behavior of the bird, thinking they may have fledged young without anyone knowing. Matt Brown contributed as many as 30 Marsh Wrens from Deer Creek Marsh,

testimony to continued excellence of the spot. A pair of Evening Grosbeaks were found in the Herkimer County town of Manheim on 8 July by Larry Hall, the only report. Did they breed successfully? Ida Sheppard contributed Pine Siskins to eBird on a near-daily basis from her Oneida County patch. All reports of the species were in June.

A Clay-colored Sparrow, presumed initially to be a migrant, continued from May and took up residence at Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse. The bird's daily activities were carefully documented by Deborah Dohne (both in her own field notes and on eBird) as it advertised territory in this very unusual location. The species is known as a scarce, thinly-distributed nester in New York state. Would it find a mate? Things got interesting fast for Dohne, as the bird paired up with a female Chipping Sparrow and commenced breeding. Her article documenting this very unusual and significant breeding event may be found on pages 317-323 in the present issue of *The Kingbird*. Elsewhere, the Region's only other consistent Clay-colored Sparrows continue at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Oneida County. Matt Perry could not confirm successful nesting but noted a male bird returning to the same place and singing the same Chipping-like song of previous years.

On 24 June Chris Wood, Jessie Barry, and Estevao Santos recorded a singing Lincoln's Sparrow in a remote area southeast of Old Forge. As mentioned earlier, the unbirded portions of northern Herkimer County likely contain far more boreal nesters than currently known. Hopefully the forthcoming Breeding Bird Atlas starting next summer will provide more insight. Wood also turned up a first-year male Orchard Oriole at Peter Scott Swamp near Phoenix. He remarked in his field notes "presumably scarce here" and it is indeed a first record for the spot in eBird despite seemingly good habitat for the species. Lack of summertime coverage of this excellent birding spot is likely to blame. This theme sadly applies to Louisiana Waterthrush as well, reported only twice (!) during the season though presumably found along most flowing creeks in the southern part of the Region. Present-day birding emphasizes listing and the species is often twitched soon after it arrives, not to be bothered with again until the following April. This disappointing trend in birding habits affects other species as well, including Golden-winged Warbler. The only visually-confirmed report this season came from Fabius where Andrea Burke had good looks on 18 August, supplemented by several heard-only records of birds singing the appropriate song (which is no longer adequate to assume a pure bird). Paul DeBenedictis wrote in the summer 1985 *Kingbird* report that Golden-winged still outnumbered Blue-winged in central Oswego County. While this is no longer the case, the area may still hold a few nesters.

Several observers, including Jay McGowan, Livia Santana, and David Wheeler kayaked the Seneca River north from Carncross Road in June and found as many as six Prothonotary Warblers, most in the flooded woods on the west side of the river across from Howland Island. Much of the waterway that

loops the island has good quality habitat and may contain dozens of these gorgeous birds. Status of the birds at the traditional Toad Harbor spot is unknown. They were last reported there in 2012 but the Three Mile Bay Area contains substantial (but hard to reach) habitat. Meanwhile, Deborah Dohne found Northern Parulas twice in late June. One was atop Morgan Hill State Forest, vaguely suitable for the species to nest, and the other bird in a decidedly curious spot along McCloud Road near the Three Mile Bay WMA. Dave Nicosia banded the Shackham Road-area conifer forest near the Onondaga/Cortland County line and came up with excellent counts of Ovenbird, Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers, and Blue-headed Vireo. Elizabeth Frascatore contributed an early migrant Wilson's Warbler from her yard in Herkimer County.

This season a total of 203 species and two hybrids was reported, which is five below the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights of the season included: Blue-winged Teal, Common Nighthawk, Sandhill Crane, Piping Plover, Whimbrel, **American White Pelican**, **Black Vulture**, Black-backed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Clay-colored Sparrow, Clay-colored x Chipping Sparrow (hybrid), Lincoln's Sparrow, and Prothonotary Warbler.

Summer 2019 produced 60,155 eBird records for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Hummingbird v5.1. Reports were contributed by 465 people.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DC** – Deer Creek Marsh, T Richland; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HI** – Howland Island WMA; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **LoopR** – Loop Rd Unit, Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MCL** – Madison County Landfill; **MW** – McKoons Road Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **MSI** – Madison St Impoundment, Hamilton; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **Phx** – Phoenix dam area; **Pt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **RRP** – Radisson River P, Three Rivers confluence, Phoenix; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skana** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **Vbsp** – Verona Beach SP; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: FH 4 Jun; OswH 14 Jul; only reps.

Canada Goose: 221 Dolge 12 Aug; max 250 WP 17 Aug.

Mute Swan: 4 OnonL 13 Aug; max 22 FH 14 Jul.

Trumpeter Swan: 5 HI 1 Jun; 2 Volney 16 Jun; 2 BLNC 24 Jun; 6 FH 5 Aug; max 8 TR 22 Jun.

Wood Duck: 29 CM 31 Jul; 39 DC 9 Aug; max 60 UM 11 Aug; 33 MW 24 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: 9 SNC 7 Jul, f. with young (JCa); max 14 DC 31 Aug (MB); reps from 6 other locs.

Gadwall: no reps.

American Wigeon: 2 OnonL 12 Aug, only rep.

Mallard: max 250 OLC 28 Jul.

American Black Duck: 4 OF Adk 8 Jun; 4 OnonL 16 Aug; max 5 Eaton 14 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: OnonL 14 & 28 Jul; MSI 27 Aug; max 5 DL 25 Aug; only reps.

Ring-necked Duck: 6 WP 1-9 Jun; last 2 WP 11 Jun; 2 OF 11 Jun; only locs.

Greater Scaup: OswH 1-13 Aug, injured; only rep.

Lesser Scaup: WP 1-9 Jun; only rep.

Common Goldeneye: HI 7 Jun; Sunday Lake HERK 15 Jun; OF 1-13 Aug; only reps.

Hooded Merganser: 10 Skana 9 Jun; max 17 Madison 24 Jun, 2 f with young.

Common Merganser: 11 OF 26 Jul; max 13 Fayetteville 2 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 2 Bville 6 Jun, one thru 25 Aug; only rep.

Ruddy Duck: max 6 MW 4 Jul, adults with 4 imms, only rep.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 12 Great Swamp Conservancy 29 Jul; 2 Chittenango 19 Aug; singles from 6 other locs.

Ruffed Grouse: 4 Williamstown 5-6 Jun; max 6 Pulaski 26 Jun.

Wild Turkey: 13 Eagle Bay ADK; 12 Jun; 13 Herkimer 25 Jul; max 30 Hamilton 12 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 9 UM 9 Jun, ad with young.

Rock Pigeon: max 70 OswH 22 Aug.

Mourning Dove: max 64 OnonL 28 Jul; 32 Dolge 6 Aug.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 2 Const 26 Jun; singles at about 25 other locs.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 DB 3 Jun, 2 Coldbrook 27 Jun; singles from about 30 other locs.

Common Nighthawk: last 2 Pulaski 1 Jun; Cicero 18 Jun (DN), 2 OSP 29 Jun (DA), Utica 4 Jul (MP), unusual dates; 6 Earlville 26 Aug; 6 TR 28 Aug; 1-2 NBT Bank Stadium lights 26-27 Aug; 6 TR 28 Aug; max 8 WP 28 Aug; relatively reps.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: Oswego 8 Jun, unusual loc, date; ONEI 19 Jun; max 3 Salisbury 29 Jun; only reps.

Chimney Swift: 17 Syr 1 Aug; max 25 Dolge 22 Aug; low numbers.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 45 Stillwater ADK 6 Jul (GL); 41 DCM 29 Aug (MB).

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 3 TR 19 Jun; max 4 UM 15 Aug.

Sora: max 2 DC 8 Jun & MSI 30 Jul; PSS 10 Jun; MW 18 Aug; only reps.

Common Gallinule: 19 OnonL 12 Aug, incl juv, *intro*; max 20 UM 15 Aug, breeding; 9 HI 25 Aug.

American Coot: max 4 OnonL 23 Aug, all reps same loc.

Sandhill Crane: DC 2 Jun (MB); DB 28 Jun (DW); max 8 HI 4 Aug (MJ).

Black-bellied Plover: SP 2 Aug (DD); SHTF 29 Aug (DWe); only reps.

American Golden-Plover: max 40 SHTF 29 Aug (DWe); SP 29 Aug (MB); only reps.

Semipalmated Plover: 3 Mannsville 26 Jul; max 11 SP 24 Aug.

PIPING PLOVER (R5): 2 ad breed SP, 3 juv hatch, 2 juv & ad thru early Aug, *intro*.

Killdeer: 35 Osw Airport 22 Jul; max 76 Marietta 25 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: Osw Airport 26 Jul (GD); Poland 29 Jul (BLH); only reps.

Whimbrel: FH 12 Jul (DW); max 5 FH 19 Aug (MG); SP 14, 19 Jul; (DW); only reps.

Ruddy Turnstone: FH 22 Jul (GD); only rep.

Stilt Sandpiper: OnonL 25 Jul (DD); only rep.

Sanderling: arr SP 14 Jul; 7 FH 22 Jul; max 9 SP 27 Jul & 17 Aug; small num 3 other locs.

Least Sandpiper: arr Fayetteville 11 Jul; max 24 Skan 15 Jul; 16 Madison 27 Aug; 18 SHSF 29 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr OnonL 8 Jul; 2 MW 22 Jul; 2 MSI 11 Aug; small num 3 other locs.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 4 HI 13 Jul; 7 OnonL 25 Jul; max 23 SP 14 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: SP 11, 20 Jul (DW); MW 23 Jul (BLH); only reps.

American Woodcock: 4 Manlius 3 Jul; max 6 TR 29 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: 3 MW 8 Aug; max 5 Richfield Springs 22 Aug; few reps.

Spotted Sandpiper: 8 OnonL 25 Jul; max 19 Eaton 29 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Barneveld 2 Jun; 8 Osw Airport 22 Jul; max 13 Eaton 6-14 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr MW & Skan 14 Jul; max 38 Skan 15 Jul; 20 MW 21 Jul; 16 OnonL 5 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr HV 10 Jul (DW), unusual loc; 3 SH 26 Aug; max 6 Skan 27 Aug.

Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs: max 30 Skan 14 Jul.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 6 SP 8 Aug; max 117 SVB 18 Aug; 28 Const 27 Aug.

Ring-billed Gull: 400 OswH 9 Aug; max 1500 DB 18 Aug; 400 OnonL 20 Aug; 400 Marietta 25 Aug.

Herring Gull: max 100 FH 23 Jun.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 18 SVB 18 Aug; 4 SP 24 Aug.

Caspian Tern: 70 SP 5 Jun; 75 SP 24 Jun; max 206 FH 9 Aug; 52 SP 21 Aug; 34 OswH 22 Jul, unk Jun num at OswH due to no reps.

Black Tern: Seneca River/HI 7 (DW), 8 Jun (JM, LS), just over Reg border, only reps.

Common Tern: 100 Const 26 Jun; 100 SP 17 Aug; max 221 OSP 20 Aug; 115 SP 21 Aug; 80 SP 24 Aug; accurate count not available from OneiL breeding colony near Const; attempted breeding SP beach late July, *intro*.

LOONS-FALCONS

Common Loon: max 9 OF; 7 Moss Lake, ADK 8 Aug.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1700 SP 24 Aug (MB), flocks flying south; 500 OLC 26 Aug.

American White Pelican: OneiL Lakeport 21 Aug (GK).

American Bittern: max 2 DC 11 Jun; reps of singles from 9 other locs.

Least Bittern: max 2 DeWitt 18 Jun & UM 11 Aug; SP 28 Jun, 12 & 28 Jul, 21 Aug; singles 6 other locs.

Great Blue Heron: max 50 SNC 8 Jun, breeding colony; 32 HI 8 Jun.

Great Egret: 13 MW 21-23 Jul; max 21 UM 4 Aug; 12 OnonL 7 Aug.

Green Heron: 6 SNC 15 Jun; max 7 SP 14 Jul; 6 Madison 11 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: OswH 22 Jun (MM); max 3 OLC 26 Jul; WP 22 Aug; only reps.

Black Vulture: Middleville 30 Aug (KT).

Turkey Vulture: max 67 Canastota 12 Jul; 48 Little Falls 20 Jun; 48 DC 29 Aug.

Osprey: max 7 Bville 18 Aug; 6 OnonL 25 Jul; 6 FH 29 Jul.

Northern Harrier: max 3 DC 29 Aug; 2 SHTF 29 Aug.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: relatively few reps.

Cooper's Hawk: 2 BLNC 24 Jun; max 3 Fayetteville 21 Jul-6 Aug; 2 SH 27 Aug.

Northern Goshawk: OF 24 Jun, only rep (CW, JB).

Bald Eagle: max 28 HI 8 Jun (JM, LS); 16 DH 18 Aug.

Red-shouldered Hawk: DB 21 Jun; WP 26 Jun; Fairfield 28 Jun; SH 4 Jul; Pulaski 21 July; WMonroe 25 Aug; Hastings 31 Aug; only credible reps.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 51 DH 18 Aug; 8 SFNS 24 Aug.

Red-tailed Hawk: 34 DH 6 Aug; max 55 DH 18 Aug.

Eastern Screech-Owl: singles from 6 locs.

Great Horned Owl: max 2 Kirkland 14 Jun; singles from 6 other locs.

Barred Owl: max 3 BLNC 24 Jun; reps from over 40 locs.

Long-eared Owl: no reps.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: no reps.

Belted Kingfisher: 6 SP 14 Jul; max 11 HI 16 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 DH thru, likely nesting (GS); FH thru, likely nesting; 2 WMonroe 3 Jul (DD), unusual loc; 4 SP 11 Aug (JCh); VBSP thru & max 5 VBSP 29

Aug, incl juvs; scattered reps north shore OneiL.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 8 HI 8 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 GLSP 15 Jun, 4 SFNS 14 Jul.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Sunday Lake HERK 11 Jun (BL); only rep.

Downy Woodpecker: 6 HI 26 Jun; max 7 Dolge 26 Jun.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 Dolge 12 Jun.

Northern Flicker: max 7 HI 1 Jun & Syr 19 Aug.

Pileated Woodpecker: 4 WP 3 Jul; 4 GLSP 3 Jul; max 5 SFNS 20 Aug.

American Kestrel: 5 Earlville 9 Jul; max 6 Dolge 9 Aug; scattered reps.

Merlin: max 3 OF 24 Jun; 2 Syr 31 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: max 6 Utica Jun-Jul (MP) fledged 4 young; Little Falls 30 Jun; 2 MCL 19 Aug; a few other reps from expected locs.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 14 HI 8 Jun; 7 SP 20 Aug.

Eastern Kingbird: 12 HI 8 Jun; max 16 WP 22 Aug, great number.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Syr 20 Aug; SP 25 Aug; only reps.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 12 HI 1 Jun; 8 SFNS 20 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: reps from 5 locs.

Acadian Flycatcher: HI 1 Jun; max 3 WH 12 Jun; SNC 16 Jun; only locs.

Alder Flycatcher: 6 SFNS 1 Jun; max 10 Otter Lake 4 Jun; 6 TR 5 Aug.

Willow Flycatcher: max 14 HI 6 Jun; 10 DB 1 Aug.

Least Flycatcher: max OnonL 7 Jun, 10 Jul; 5 SP 25 Aug.

Eastern Phoebe: 6 Dolge 6-30 Jun; max 8 Oswego 19 Aug;

Yellow-throated Vireo: 5 Otter Lake 4 Jun; max 23 HI 8 Jun, great number.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 15 SH 8 Jul; 5 OF 25 Aug.

Warbling Vireo: max 25 HI 8 Jun; 12 FH 24 Aug.

Red-eyed Vireo: 28 OF 23 Jun; max 30 SH 8 Jul.

Canada Jay: no reps.

Blue Jay: max 100 Kirkland 25 Aug, 100 WP 28 Aug.

American Crow: max 196 Dolge 12 Jul; 107 Marcy 11 Aug.

Fish Crow: max 3 OnonL 11 Jul; 2 Herkimer 23 Jul; reps from 8 other locs.

Common Raven: max 4 Camillus 9 Jun; 4 TR 10 Jun; 4 Hast 22 Jun-8 Jul.

Horned Lark: max 11 SHTF 30 Aug; singles and small numbers at 3 other locs.

Purple Martin: 20 Const 26 Jun; max 38 RRP 27 Aug; more locs than typical.

Tree Swallow: 60 MW 23 Jul; max 235 Cicero 27 Jul; 60 SP 31 Aug.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 8 SNC 1 Jun; 13 HI 13 Jul; max 15 UM 15 Jul.

Bank Swallow: max 40 Volney 21 Jun; 20 Oswego 26 Jul; 21 Cicero 27 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: 6 TR 25 Jul; 6 Brew 1 Aug; max 25 OswH 28 Aug; small numbers at several other locs.

Barn Swallow: max 90 OnonL 12 Aug; 50 TR 17 Aug; 65 Mexico 21 Aug.

Black-capped Chickadee: 17 BLNC 1 Jul; max 22 SH 28 Jul.

Boreal Chickadee: no reps.

Tufted Titmouse: max 21 Atwood Lake HERK 19 Jul.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 ADK 1 & 24 Aug; most reps from SH & n HERK.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 6 mult locs.

Brown Creeper: max 4 HI 8 Jun.

House Wren: 8 DB 1 Jul & 1 Aug; max 11 Cazenovia 30 Jun & Pulaski 25 Aug.

Winter Wren: max 8 SH 8 Jul.

Sedge Wren: TR 14 Jul-6 Aug (GD); 2 TR 6 Aug (GD), nesting status unknown.

Marsh Wren: 8 HI 8 Jun; max 30 DC 11 Jun (MB), good num.

Carolina Wren: most reps from ONON.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 15 HI, good num.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 20 SH 8 Jul; most reps SH & n. HERK.

Eastern Bluebird: max 9 GLSP.

Veery: max 14 Const 23 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: 4 reps, all n. HERK.

Hermit Thrush: max 10 HV 10 Jul & Atwood L 29 Jun.

Wood Thrush: max 14 GLSP.

American Robin: max 35 Syr.

Gray Catbird: 35 Utica 27 Jun; 43 UM 15 Aug.

Brown Thrasher: max 6 GLSP 4 Jun; scattered locs.

Northern Mockingbird: most reps ONON; max 3 OakC 20 Aug.

European Starling: max 2500 Pulaski 29 Aug (MB).

Cedar Waxwing: max 60 Phx 7 Aug.

House Sparrow: max 35 Liverpool 15 Aug.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 TManheim 8 Jul (BLH), only rep.

House Finch: max 12 UM.

Purple Finch: max 24 Dolge 10 Aug.

Pine Siskin: 1-2 Cassville ONEI & Dolge thru Jun, only reps.

American Goldfinch: max 60 Rome 17 Aug.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 6 SFNS 8 Jun; max 7 GLSP 10 Jul.

Chipping Sparrow: 20 Clay 4 Jul; 30 OakC 15 Aug.

Clay-colored Sparrow: OakC thru 19 Jul (DD), *intro*; max 2 SFNS 22 Jul (MP).

Clay-colored x Chipping Sparrow (hybrid): 3 juv OakC mid-July (DD), *intro*.

Field Sparrow: 14 TR 22 Jun; max 16 GLSP 4 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: Waterville 28 Jun; Dolge 3 Aug; TR 6 Aug; max 5 TManheim 22 Jul; only reps.

Savannah Sparrow: 6 Osw Airport 22 Jul; max 7 SH 31 Jul; few reps than expected.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 3 MSI 5 Jul; Jul-Aug Mason Hill, Hamilton; singles 5 other locs, scarce in Reg.

Song Sparrow: max 30 multiple locs.

Lincoln's Sparrow: n HERK 24 Jun (CW, JB); only rep.

Swamp Sparrow: max 23 PSS 16 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: max 5 Atwood L 14 Jul; low nums.

White-crowned Sparrow: Hamilton 3 Jun; last SNC 9 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 30 SH 8 Jul.

Bobolink: 55 TR 22 Jun; 65 SFNS 24 Aug; max 80 Pulaski 16 Aug (MB).

Eastern Meadowlark: max 22 Osw Airport 22 Jul; low nums elsewhere.

Orchard Oriole: HI 6, 8 Jun; 3 DB 3 Jun; PSS 10 Jun; 2 Marcellus 22 Jun; max 7 GLSP 22 Jun; SFNS 4, 14 Jul; only reps.

Baltimore Oriole: max 8 HI 8, 14 Jun.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 400 SHTF 22 Aug.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 25 Rome 7 Jul.

Common Grackle: max 216 Dolge 26 Jul.

Ovenbird: max 40 SH 8 Jul.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Jamesville 15 Jun; Redfield 27 Jun (DN); only reps, *intro*.

Northern Waterthrush: max 4 TR 22 Jun & LH 18 Jun.

Golden-winged Warbler: Fabius 18 Aug (AB); only rep.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 6 HI 1 Jun.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Pulaski 15 Jun & 20, 23, 28 Aug; only rep.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 5 McKeever BBS HERK 23 Jun.

Prothonotary Warbler: 6 HI 7, 8 Jun; only reps, *intro*.

Tennessee Warbler: Fayetteville 1 Jun; last SFNS 2 Jun; arr Oswego 28 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: max 3 Sunday L HERK 11 Jun; most reps n. HERK.

Mourning Warbler: max 3 SH 2 Jun.

Common Yellowthroat: max 23 GLSP 10 Jul; 20 TR 25 Jul.

Hooded Warbler: max 5 Kirkland 5 Jun; Camillus 9 Jun.

American Redstart: max 25 HI 8 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: WMonroe 26 Jun & 2 Jul; Cicero Swamp 20 Jul; max 24 HI 8 Jun; only locs.

Northern Parula: WMonroe 26 Jun (DD), unusual loc; SH 29 Jun (DD); max 5 Atwood L 26 Jun.

Magnolia Warbler: max 15 SH 8 Jul.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 25 SH 8 Jul.

Yellow Warbler: max 25 HI 14 Jun.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 5 SH 2 Jun.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 3 SVB 4 Jun; last FH 11 Jun.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 10 SH 23 Jun.

Pine Warbler: max 5 OF 24 Jun; few reps.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 4 SH 1 Jun & n. HERK 24 Aug; low nums.

Prairie Warbler: no reps.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 11 n. HERK 23 Jul.

Canada Warbler: 3 LH 9 Jul; max 4 n. HERK 5 Jul.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr Dolge 31 Jul; BLNC 20 Aug; Erieville 29 Aug.

Scarlet Tanager: max 7 Erieville 7 July.

Northern Cardinal: max 17 Elbridge 22 Jul.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 9 Pulaski 15 Jun; max 10 Minetto 28 Aug.

Indigo Bunting: 7 HI 1 Jun; max 8 DB 4 Aug.



REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The summer began cool and wet but warmed up and dried out by mid-summer. Watertown’s mean June temperature was 62.3° F, 1.2° below normal, and the 4.26" of rain that fell that month was 2.1" above normal, making for the second consecutive very wet month. Temperatures warmed considerably in July, with a mean temperature of 71.3° that was 2.7° above normal. August was more seasonable, as Watertown’s mean temperature of 66.8° was within 0.3° of normal. July rainfall was about 0.6" below normal but August saw 0.6" more rain than usual.

The most significant weather-related event of the season was the extremely high water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River that

resulted from the spring's record rainfall in the western Great Lakes. Shorebird habitat was essentially nonexistent along these bodies of water, and many nesting islands were extensively flooded, limiting nesting sites for colonial water birds. Nest counts for several species were lower than in recent years, perhaps most notably for Caspian Tern at Little Galloo Island, where the 1,715 nests counted by DEC biologists was 57% fewer than the record high count from 2018. Common Terns had recently recolonized Little Galloo Island, but no nests were found this year. However, one Common Tern nest on a log in the Lakeview Wildlife Management Area marsh fledged three chicks. The unusual location of this nest likely reflects the scarcity of traditional nest sites for this species.

Northbound migrants passed through during the first few days of June in numbers that seemed unusually high. Two flocks of Brant totaling about 100 individuals passed over Butterfield Lake and Canton on 2 June. On that same day 22 Blackpoll Warblers were at Little Sucker Brook Park. Other typically late migrants, such as Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and Tennessee and Wilson's Warblers were well reported during early June. Many of these species were conspicuous to about 6 June.

Waterfowl numbers were mostly unexceptional, but the only true rarity of the season was a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** Nick Leone found in Frenchman's Bay in the town of Clayton on 17 June. Unfortunately this flashy duck did not stick around for others to see it. Trumpeter Swans continued their gradual expansion in the Region, with sightings from six locations, although nesting was not confirmed at any new sites. Blue-winged Teal continue to be scarce during the summer and certainly seem to be harder to find during this season than they were a decade or so ago. An adult female Common Goldeneye at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA in early July was a surprise, but was not found after mid-July and was assumed to be moving. It is unclear whether a juvenile of the same species at Murray Island during late August was from a local breeding attempt or was an early arrival from farther north.

Very few shorebirds sightings came from the Lake Ontario shoreline, not surprising given the extremely high water levels there. Nearly all of the season's migrant shorebird reports came from Perch River WMA, where one pool was lowered for construction and briefly had suitable habitat before the exposed mud dried out, or from Wilson Hill WMA and nearby areas along the St. Lawrence River. Often this stretch of river, between the Iroquois and Moses-Saunders Dams, can be good for shorebirds in late summer when increased power generation results in lower water levels. This year the river was not lowered as much as usual, and when it was, surprisingly few shorebirds appeared. Probably the most noteworthy shorebird sightings were of an early Dunlin at Perch River on 14 August and an American Golden-Plover on a lawn west of Ogdensburg on 29 August. Overall it was the poorest summer for shorebirds in at least five years.

Several grassland birds of conservation concern continue to hang on the in the Region. Upland Sandpipers were at Fort Drum and three other locations in northwest Jefferson County, about typical for the past decade. A total of 13 Henslow's Sparrows were reported at Chaumont Barrens, Perch River WMA, and Fort Drum in just about the only locations this increasingly rare species has been found over the past 4-5 years. A Short-eared Owl at Fort Drum was in the same location that a pair nested in 2018, but it was not seen after early July and nesting was not confirmed. It was a good year for Sedge Wrens with at least 30 individuals at eight locations, the largest number occurring on Fort Drum.

Many birders visit southeastern St. Lawrence County during the summer to search of boreal birds, with Massawepie Mire representing the biggest draw. Despite numerous visitors no Spruce Grouse were detected this summer, which was a little surprising because reports of this rare breeder have increased at Massawepie over the last couple of years. The five Boreal Chickadees Shelley Rutkin and Derek Hudgins found in Piercefield were the only ones reported all summer, which was not surprising as Boreals have been increasingly difficult to find in St. Lawrence County for quite some time. Red Crossbills apparently nested at Massawepie Mire and the Horseshoe Lake area but were not found elsewhere.

Thanks to eBird the number of observers reporting in Region 6 has been steadily increasing for several years and seemed to reach a new high this year, so it was a bit surprising that only 199 species were documented for the lowest summer total since 2010. A general lack of shorebirds contributed to this low species tally and was a major disappointment generally. Clearly the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was the greatest rarity found this season, but as so often happens in Region 6, did not stick around for anybody to see it, another disappointment.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; **BI** – Barnhart I, T Massena, STLA; **CB** – Chaumont Barrens Preserve; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; **IRL** – Indian River Lakes; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KPSP** – Kring Pt SP; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest, T Hammond; **LGI** – Little Galloo I; **LPd** – Leanoard Pd trail T Colton; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SH** – Sackett's Harbor; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **SLWG** – St. Lawrence Grassland and Wetland Management District; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WISP** – Wellesley I SP; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: T Clayton 17 Jun (NL) not seen again.

Snow Goose: T Henderson 30 Jul (JC) only report.

Brant: LSBP 2 Jun; max 70 RRT 2 June; 30 Butterfield L 2 Jun; last reports; high for Jun.

Mute Swan: max 7 WISP 23 Jun.

Trumpeter Swan: up to 10/day PRWMA thru; 2 WHWMA 2 Jun; 8 T Alexandria 16 Jun; max 11 ULLWMA 10 Jul; 2 T Lisbon 25 Aug; 2 Dexter Marsh 29 Aug.

Wood Duck: max 660 PRWMA 17 Aug (JB).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 reports PRWMA Jun; AFWMA & T Hammond 9 Jun; only reports before mid July; max 185 PRWMA 24 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: AFWMA 9 Jun & T Clayton 8 Jul only reports before Aug; max 3 PRWMA 17 Aug thru.

Gadwall: 5 BI 11 Jul; PRWMA 24 Aug; only reports.

American Wigeon: 2 PRWMA 17 Aug; WHWMA 25 Aug; only reports.

American Black Duck: max 9 Lowe's Lake 8 Jul.

Green-winged Teal: none before Aug; max 16 PRWMA 17 Aug, WHWMA & WP 25 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: max 76 ULLWMA 13 Aug.

Common Goldeneye: ad f ULLWMA 5-10 Jul (JB); juv Murray I 23 Aug (HM, ph!).

Common Merganser: max 17 (f w 16 juv) Murray I 16 Jul;

Red-breasted Merganser: WHWMA 25 Aug (BB) only report.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 36 PRWMA 19 Aug.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 22 reports from 14 locations; max 3 ICNC 1 Jun & LBSF 14 Jul.

Black-billed Cuckoo: about 70 reported from 43 locations.

Common Nighthawk: Star L T Fine 9 Jun (DN) & SBSP 12 Jun (DC) only Jun or Jul reports away from FD area where still regular breeder; breeding season max 12 FD 17 Jun; Natural Bridge T Wilna 29 Jun & T Leray 1 Jul near FD boundary; migrants arr T Carthage 15 Aug; max 28 T Watertown 28 Aug.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: max 45 FD 17 Jun; multiple counts also from CB, T Lyme, IRL area.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 14 reports from 11 locations. **Sora:** 6 reports from 4 locations.

Common Gallinule: max 49 PRWMA 24 Aug (JB).

Sandhill Crane: 2 T Lisbon 13 Jul only report.

Black-bellied Plover: 3 T Dekalb 5 Jun; PRWMA 6 & 22 Aug.

American Golden-Plover: T Oswegatchie 29 Aug (BS) only report.

Semipalmated Plover: max 13 PRWMA 6 Aug.

Killdeer: max 200 PRWMA 14 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: CB 7 Jun (GD); T Clayton 6 Jul (DD), 2 ad 4 juv 2 T Lyme 1 Jul (LE) where 2 still present 10 Aug (SK); only reports away from FD where 6+ terr (JB).

Sanderling: 5 SBSP 24 Aug only report.

Dunlin: WHWMA 2 Jun; PRWMA 14 Aug (AK, KB, KR, early).

Least Sandpiper: max 50 PRWMA 14 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 3 PRWMA 17 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 13 WHWMA 2 Jun last northbound migrants; max 22 PRWMA 4 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 3 PRWMA 17-19 Aug; WHWMA 25 Aug only other report.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Cranberry L 12 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 25 PRWMA 15 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 10 PRWMA 17 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 8 SH 9 Aug.
Herring Gull: max 996 nests LGI down from 1159 in 2018.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 5 WP 18 Aug.
Caspian Tern: 1715 nests LGI far below previous year's record high (*intro*).
Black Tern: 7 Wilson Bay marsh 9 Jun; 2 SBSP 12 Jun; up to 10/day WHWMA Jun where rare in recent years; 31 ULLWMA 10 Jul; up to 50/day PRWMA Jun & Jul; 2 Swamp Rd T Lyme 18 Jul; Grant Rd CV 27 Jul; 2 AFWMA 11 Aug.
Common Tern: nest on log LWMA 5 Jul fledged 3 y; no nests LGI for first time since at least 2013; 1070 nests SLR lowest since 2010.

LOONS-FALCONS

Double-crested Cormorant: 3051 nests LGI 12 Jun highest since 2004; record high counts on 8 islands E L Ontario & STLA.
American Bittern: max 6 FD 7 Jun.
Least Bittern: 13 reports from 8 locations; max 3 PRWMA 18 Jul.
Great Egret: max 16 Bombay SF 4 Aug & WP 18 Aug.
Green Heron: max 10 Perch L 12 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 126 nests Murphy I record high.
Northern Harrier: about 50 reports from 21 locations.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 13 reports.
Cooper's Hawk: only 7 reports from 6 locations low.
Northern Goshawk: LPd 21 Jun & MM 7 Jul.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 8 reports IRL Jun & Jul; only 7 reports elsewhere.
Eastern Screech-Owl: T Clayton 8 Jun; FD 17 Jun; only reports.
Short-eared Owl: FD thru 3 Jul only report.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 11 FD 22 Aug; T Pinckney 28 Jun (GS) & 2 T Champion feeder 12 Aug (SM) only other reports.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: recent expansion into Adirondacks including Cranberry L 6 Jun (NG) & Massawepie L 23 Aug (NK).
Merlin: reports from 25 locations.
Peregrine Falcon: FD 1 Jun prob migrating; MM 24 Aug unusual location.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: RRT 2 Jun; PRWMA 4 Jun; T Pinckney 11 Jun; only reports outside Adirondacks.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: northbound migrants outside Adirondacks include 5 RRT 2 Jun, FD 3 & 4 Jun; max 8 MM 7 Jun likely breeders; southbound migrants include FD 26 Aug & RRT 31 Aug.
Alder Flycatcher: max 26 FD 6 Jun.
Willow Flycatcher: max 27 FD 23 Jun.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 CV (DM) & 2 T Canton (RM) 2 Jun likely late northbound migrants; Crooked Creek Preserve 22 Jun (BB) & FD 23 Jun (JB) unusual locations; T Croghan 10 Aug (MR) likely early southbound migrant.
Canada Jay: max 8 MM 7 Jul.
Tree Swallow: numbers generally low but high counts 935 FD 16 Jul & 550 ULLWMA 1 Aug.
Bank Swallow: 110 FD 4 Jul.
Cliff Swallow: max 200 BI 11 Jul.
Boreal Chickadee: max 5 T Piercefield 15 Aug.
Sedge Wren: T Waddington 2 Jun (JB); French Creek WMA 22 Jun (GS); 1 Judson St Rd T Canton 30 Jun increased to 6 by 9 Jul (JB, BD); max 13 FD 1 Jul; Bevins Rd T Clayton 13 Jul (KR); 2 SLWG 22 Jul (JB); PRWMA 9 Jul (MM) where 2 18 Jul (GB); 2 AFWMA Jul.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: ICNC 10 Jul; Alcoa Ponds T Massena 7 Aug; PRWMA 15 Aug; only reports away from L Ontario shore.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 T Clayton 11 Aug only report away from Adirondacks or Tug Hill.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: up to 4/day Cranberry L thru; Hitchens Pd 7 Jul; T Pinckney 25-30 Aug only report outside Adirondacks.

Swainson's Thrush: southbound migrant arr FD 19 Aug.

Northern Mockingbird: T Canton 2 Jun; T Hounsfield 7 Jul; KPSP 27 Jun; T Croghan 3 Aug; scarce FD where usually regular breeder.

House Finch: only 16 reports unusually scarce

Purple Finch: max 13 T Fine 8 Jun.

Red Crossbill: 10 reports 1-2 each from 5 locations in extreme SE STLA; no other reports.

Pine Siskin: Cranberry L 13 & 24 Jun only reports.

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS-
CARDINALIDS**

Clay-colored Sparrow: Taylor Rd T Leray 6 Jun (SG); Swamp Rd T Lyme & CV 8 Jun-21 Jul (SK, mob); Holmes Rd T Leray 9 Jun (JB); max 16 FD 7 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: PRWMA 30 Jun (AVK) & CV 2 Jul (DM) only reports away from FD; max 45 FD 21 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: T Lyme 18 Jul; 6 reports 1-2 PRWMA 7 Jun -11 Aug; max 32 FD 29 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: 2 CB 6 Jun (GD); up to 5/day FD Jun-Jul; max 6 PRWMA Jun-Jul.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 6 MM 27 Jun & 7 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: T Philadelphia 7 Jun (FB); FD 12 Jun (JB); T Canton 14 Jul (JB); T Pinckney 4 Aug (GS); only reports.

Rusty Blackbird: 3 Cranberry L 16 Jun (NG); 2 Lowe's L 7 Jul (AB).

Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 Lake of the Woods 5 Aug (SM).

Golden-winged Warbler: several reports 6-9/day FD & IRL Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 12 FD 5 Jun.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 9 FD Jun; 4 elsewhere.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: different locations FD 8 & 12 Jun.

Tennessee Warbler: last spring migrant FD 6 Jun; Tug Hill WMA 9 Aug (JH) local breeder?

Nashville Warbler: max 12 FD 20 Jun.

Mourning Warbler: max 8 FD 5 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: Tooley Pd Rd T Clare 24 Jun (AB) rare breeding season; southbound migrants arr RRT 18 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: max 5 LBSF 6 Jun & T Dekalb 9 Jul.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr RRT 24 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 22 Little Sucker Brook Park 2 Jun high for Jun; FD & T Morristown 6 Jun last obvious northbound migrants; Low's Ridge, Upper Dam Trail 7 Jun last migrant or breeder?

Palm Warbler: max "Yellow" 14 MM 1 Jun; "Western" fall arr PRWMA 17 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: max 27 FD 21 Jun.

Canada Warbler: max 10 FD 16 Jun

Wilson's Warbler: last 2 spring migrants FD 6 Jun; southbound arr FD 19 Aug.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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June continued May's unusually cold and wet weather. Temperatures averaged 1-3 degrees cooler than normal over most of Region 7 with cooler pockets in the extreme southwest of Hamilton County and the southern portions of the Champlain Valley. Precipitation was lightest in the northern portion of the Region averaging 3-4 inches and increasing to 6-7 inches in the southernmost areas.

The cold wet weather of June finally gave way to more seasonal

temperatures in July. Temperatures were warmest in the low-lying areas of the Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence Valleys where they were 3-5 degrees warmer than average. In the Adirondacks the temperatures were only 1-3 degrees above normal. Throughout most of Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties an average of 2-3 inches of precipitation was recorded with a drier pocket in Clinton County of 1-2 inches and a wetter pocket of 4-5 inches in Franklin County. Precipitation in Hamilton County averaged 3-4 inches except in the southwest where the average was 4-5 inches. Unfortunately for birding possibilities the remnants of Hurricane Barry in the middle of the month mostly spared the area.

Rainfall in August produced a patchwork pattern on the map of Region 7. The lower Champlain Valley recorded the lowest totals with an average of 2-3 inches. Most of the remaining portions of the Region measured 3-4 inches while northern Clinton County and the northern half of Hamilton reported totals of 4-5 inches and the southern half 5-6 inches. Temperatures for the whole of Region 7 averaged 1-3 degrees below normal except for small pockets around Lake Placid and Saranac Lake which were, on average, 3-5 degrees colder.

The plot of the level of Lake Champlain for this season closely paralleled the graph for Summer 2018. Only the actual values were different. On 1 June 2019 the lake level stood at a fraction under flood stage of 100'. (On the same date in 2018 it was 97.7'.) At this level the mudflats associated with the Chazy Riverlands (CR) were hopelessly underwater. From there the lake level dropped in an almost perfectly smooth curve to 96.7' on 15 July and 94.6' on 31 August 2019. (It was 94.25' on the same date in 2018.) At these levels good conditions for migrating shorebirds at the CR were present only from mid July until mid August. After that the entire area was too dry. However, the lower lake levels improved the shorebird habitat at Noblewood Park. Even with these less than ideal conditions an above-average 19 species of shorebirds, residents plus migrants, were seen.

A very rare summer sighting of **Red-necked Grebe** was reported from Owls Head. The only other summer record for Region 7 was also in August and also away from Lake Champlain. Breeding of **Sandhill Crane** was recorded in the Region for the fourth consecutive year. The two reports of **Upland Sandpiper** sightings were the first in Region 7 since 2010. **Little Gull** made an exceptionally strong showing with multiple sightings from 10 August to the end of the season. At least three distinct individuals were identified though no more than two were seen at the same time. The report of the first breeding record of **Red-bellied Woodpecker** for Clinton County that appeared in The Kingbird (Vol. 68, p. 334, 2018) drew this response from Jackie Wrenn: "Evidence of breeding was witnessed [most years from 2013 to 2018] by the fact that the male would bring one or two juveniles to the suet feeders." Thus confirming the conviction that this woodpecker had bred here long before the 2018 record. The juvenile **LeConte's Sparrow** found near Willsboro early in August was a first record for the Champlain Valley and a "very rare summer record for New York

and the entire east coast. According to the current eBird range map...there are no existing [summer] records south of Canada on the east coast."

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIC – Adirondack Interpretive Center; **AFR** – Altona Flat Rock; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **BaP** – Bartlett Pd; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BBr** – Black Brook; **BMR** – Blue Mountain Rd; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **BS** – Big Slide; **Bur** – Burke; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **ChR** – Chubb Ri; **CL** – Clorojast; **CM** – Cascade Mountain; **CMR** – Cemetery Rd; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CRd** – Chapman Rd; **CRF** – Cedar Ri Flow; **DRB** – Dexter Rd Bog; **EC** – Essex Co; **Es** – Essex; **FB** – Ferd's Bog; **FBR** – Four Brothers Islands; **GM** – Goodnow Mountain; **HB** – Holsington Brook; **HHF** – Heaven Hill Farm; **HRN** – Hudson R North; **HT** – Heaven Trails; **HuM** – Hurricane Mountain; **HuR** – Hurricane Rd; **KM** – Keese Mills Rd; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LL** – Long L; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MRP** – Moose Ri Plains; **MRv** – Moose Ri; **NE** – North Elba; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OB** – Oseetah Bog; **OH** – Owls Head; **PH** – Port Henry; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RFR** – Reagan Flats Rd; **SLB** – Silver L Bog; **SPB** – Spring Pd Bog; **SpL** – Spy L; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TR** – Trout Ri; **VTV** – Vermontville; **WF** – Whiteface Mountain; **WL** – Wilmington; **WLS** – Willis L Swamp; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Willsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WV** – Westville.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

Brant: 29 BBr 2 Jun (AVK).
Wood Duck: 13 HB 17 Jun (RB), CO-FL; 96 TI 26 Aug (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: 3 HB 10 Aug (MM).
Gadwall: 3 NP 22 Aug (SR).
American Wigeon: CR 13 Jul (BK).
Mallard: 19 CR 15 Jul, CO-FL.
American Black Duck: 9 SpL 23 Jun (TD), CO-FL.
Northern Pintail: AP 23 Aug (MK); 8 OH 7 Jul (JT), CO-FL.
Green-winged Teal: 4 TR 16 Aug (HW).

Ring-necked Duck: 7 PS 22 Jul (KR), CO-FL.

Bufflehead: 2 Ap 23 Aug (MK), early.

Common Goldeneye: 5 CH 5 Jun.

Hooded Merganser: 10 AP 29 Jul (SR).

Common Merganser: 25 SB 6 Jun (SB), CO-FL.

Ring-necked Pheasant: EC 24 Jun (J&PT).

Ruffed Grouse: 3 BRR 11 Jun (G&MC), CO-FL.

Spruce Grouse: BMR 8 Jun (ZS-W); 2 DRB 29 Jun (AB), CO-FL.

Wild Turkey: 6 WP 16 Jun (JS), CO-FL.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 CR 15 Jul (BK), CO-FL.
Red-Necked Grebe: OH 4 Jul (RH), rare in summer.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: HHF 15 Jul (GB).
Black-billed Cuckoo: LP 15 Jul (BMc).
Common Nighthawk: 12 AFR 7 Jul (JC).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: 10 AFR 7 Jul (JC).
Chimney Swift: 12 PB 6 Jun (ZC).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 12 WLS 2 Jun (KC).

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: 4 LA 3 Aug (GR).
Sora: AP 29 Jun (CV).
Common Gallinule: HG 17 Jul (JK).
American Coot: no reports.
SANDHILL CRANE: 4 OB 11 Jun (SMc), CO-FL.
Semipalmated Plover: CR 2 Aug (BK).
Black-bellied Plover: SB 6 Jun (SR); CH 9 Jul (BK).
Killdeer: 15 CR 13 Jul (BK), CO-FL.
Upland Sandpiper: Bur 22 Jun ((WR), HuR 4 Aug (DRg).
Ruddy Turnstone: 2 PH 6 Jun (SR).
Sanderling: CR 13 Aug (BK).
Dunlin: SB 6 Jun (SR).
Baird's Sandpiper: CR 13 Aug (BK).
Least Sandpiper: 2 CR 13 Jul (BK).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: NP 28 Aug (DRg).
Pectoral Sandpiper: CR 16 Jul (BK).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 SB 6 Jun (SR).
Short-billed Dowitcher: CR 15 Jul (BK).
American Woodcock: TL 7 Jul (GB).
Wilson's Snipe: 2 NP 31 Aug (MM).
Spotted Sandpiper: 4 HRN 18 Jul (SR), CO-FL.
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 LP 23 Jun (DM).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 CR 13 Jul (BK).
Greater Yellowlegs: CR 13 Jul (BK).
Bonaparte's Gull: 307 NP 20 Aug (DRg).
Little Gull: 3 NP 10-31 Aug (MM, SR, GC).
Great Black-backed Gull: 6 PH 22 Aug (SRu).
Caspian Tern: 7 BWB 23 Jul (SR), CO-FL.
Black Tern: no reports.
Common Tern: 4 NP 30 Aug (MM).

LOONS-FALCONS

Common Loon: 8 SB 6 Jun (SR); 2 Mrv 19 Jun (GC), CO-NE.

Double-crested Cormorant: 350 CP 29 Aug (SR).
American Bittern: 2 BB 25 Jul (KD).
Least Bittern: AP 18 Jun (BK).
Great Blue Heron: 10 AP 21 Jun (BMc), CO-ON.
Great Egret: 8 BR 20 Jul (SR).
Green Heron: 2 BR 3 Aug (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 HG 17 Jul (JK); 5 FBR 29 Jul (SG), CO-FL.
Turkey Vulture: 3 CR 12 Jun (GC).
Osprey: 5 CP 13 Aug (BK).
Northern Harrier: 2 CP 24 Aug (AB).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 4 CL 24 Aug (JH).
Cooper's Hawk: 2 CP 10 Aug (SR).
Northern Goshawk: DRB 29 Jun (AB).
Bald Eagle: 2 LCI 16 Jun (RB), CO-ON.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 HuM 8 Jun (NT).
Broad-winged Hawk: 2 Es 8 Jun (NT), CO-CF.
Red-tailed Hawk: 2 BRR 14 Jun (G&MC).
Golden Eagle: no reports.
Eastern Screech Owl: IL 14 Aug (TO'B).
Great Horned Owl: CP 6 Jul (SR).
Barred Owl: 2 SLB 3 Jul (AB).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: OH 31 Aug (JT).
Belted Kingfisher: 7 AP 29 Aug (SR).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 BRR 23 Jul (G&MC), CO-FL.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 BRR 8 Jul (MC), CO-NY.
Black-backed Woodpecker: 4 ChR 8 Jun (DRg), CO-ON.
Pileated Woodpecker: 4 DMt 11 Jun (JS), CO-ON.
American Kestrel: 3 Es 24 Aug (MM).
Merlin: 2 CH 12 Aug (NO); 2 LP 24 Jul, CO-CF.
Peregrine Falcon: WF 25 Aug (G&MC).

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 4 BB 13 Aug (AB).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: 7 AP 29 Jul (SR).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 SLB 3 Jul (AB).
Alder Flycatcher: 3 CMR 19 Jul (J&PT), CO-FL.
Willow Flycatcher: 3 WRS 7 Jul (HT).
Least Flycatcher: 4 SLB 3 Jul (AB).
Eastern Phoebe: ES 9 Jul (MO), CO-ON.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 7 AP 18 Jun (BK).
Eastern Kingbird: 3 CMR 21 Jul (J&PT), CO-FL.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 3 LC 1 Jul (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: 4 LP 10 Jul (SR).
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 SPB 1 Jun (AM).
Warbling Vireo: 5 CP 6 Jul (SR).
Red-eyed Vireo: 15 Es 1 Jun (LK); 3 AIC 10 Jun (JL), CO-CF.
Canada Jay: 2 BB 15 Jun (SJ), CO-FL.
Fish Crow: PB 6 Jun (ZC).
Common Raven: 3 Bur 15 Jul (SR).
Horned Lark: 3 VTV 23 Jul (WHS).
Purple Martin: 4 RFR 7 Jul (HvdZ); 3 LA 3 Aug (GR).
Tree Swallow: 9 LC 1 Jul (SR), CO-FY.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 13 LC 1 Jul (SR), CO-FY.
Bank Swallow: 4 CR 24 Aug.
Cliff Swallow: 8 WP 7 Jul (MM).
Barn Swallow: 9 LC 1 Jul (SR), CO-FL.
Black-capped Chickadee: 4 SL 11 Jun (SJ), CO-ON.
Boreal Chickadee: GM 10 Aug (CP); CO-FL.
Tufted Titmouse: 5 BRR 8 Jul (MC), CO-FL.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 LL 6 Jul (SB), CO-FL.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 3 PH 29 Jun (SR), CO-FY.
House Wren: 4 CP 7 Jun (SR).
Winter Wren: 14 WL 1 Jun (JC); 2 BRR 14 Jun (GCH), CO-FL.
Sedge Wren: no reports.
Marsh Wren: 6 CR 31 Jul (BK).
Carolina Wren: 4 Es 31 Jul (DMo).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 3 TI 1 Aug (GC).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6 BMT 23 Jun (CW), CO-FL.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 3 CM 13 Aug (JL), CO-FL.
Eastern Bluebird: HT 23 Jun (DM), CO-CF.
Veery: 12 LA 17 Jun J&PT.
Bicknell's Thrush: 11 WF 1 Jun (AM).
Swainson's Thrush: 9 CPT 15 Jul (GC), CO-FL.
Hermit Thrush: 3 CPT 15 Jul (GC), CO-FL.
Wood Thrush: 5 RFR 4 Jul (RS).
Gray Catbird: 10 LC 1 Jul (SR), CO-CF.
Brown Thrasher: 2 TI 17 Jun (SR).
Northern Mockingbird: 5 PB 13 Aug (PS).
Cedar Waxwing: 3 LP 23 Jun (DM), CO-FY.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 Es 21 Aug (LE).
Purple Finch: 8 BS 15 Jul (BC).
Red Crossbill: MRP 9 Jun (OB).

White-winged Crossbill: WF 5 Jul (BC).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 5 RFR 7 Jul (RS).
Chipping Sparrow: 6 RFR 7 Jul (RS).
Field Sparrow: 3 PtR 8 Jul (KA).
Vesper Sparrow: BB 14 Aug (BMc).
Savannah Sparrow: 16 CR 5 Aug (BK).
LeCONTE'S SPARROW: WPt 12 Aug (DRg).
Lincoln's Sparrow: 4 DRB 29 Jun (AB), CO-FL.
Swamp Sparrow: 4 CRd 15 Jul (SR), CO-FL.
White-throated Sparrow: 10 BMR 15 Jul (JC), CO-NY.
Dark-eyed Junco: 14 WF 22 Jul (JeL).
Bobolink: 8 CR 15 Jul (BK), CO-FL.
Eastern Meadowlark: 28 RFR 7 Jul (HvdZ).
Baltimore Oriole: 4 CP 6 Jul (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 4 CP 6 Jul (SR).
Rusty Blackbird: 2 KM 22 Jun (DM).
Ovenbird: 11 PS 1 Jun (BC); 5 NP 7 Aug (SR), CO-FL.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 4 TI 11 Jul (GC).
Northern Waterthrush: 3 BaP 24 Jun (SR).
Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.
Blue-winged Warbler: no reports.
Black-and-white Warbler: 4 AP 29 Jul (SR).
Tennessee Warbler: PS 15 Jun (JR).
Nashville Warbler: 12 PS 1 Jun (BC) 3 FB 23 Jun (CW), CO-FL.
Mourning Warbler: 3 BT 9 Jul (J&PT).
Common Yellowthroat: 16 BB 3 Jun (JS); 4 PS 17 Jul (BMc), CO-FL.
American Redstart: 11 LC 1 Jul (SR), CO-FY.
Cape May Warbler: 2 NE 29 Aug (CM).
Northern Parula: 5 CPT 15 Jul (GC), CO-FL.
Magnolia Warbler: 12 PS 1 Jun (BC); 4 CPT 15 Jul (GC), CO-FL.
Bay-breasted Warbler: OB 30 Aug (N&EM).
Blackburnian Warbler: HT 23 Jun (DM), CO-CF.
Yellow Warbler: 3 WRS 7 Jul (HT), CO-FL.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 2 BaP 9 Jul (SR).
Blackpoll Warbler: 70 AP 2 Jun (TC), max; 2 WF 29 Jul (MJ), CO-FY.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 10 Es 1 Jun (LK); 6 CRF 25 Jul (SR), CO-FY.

Palm Warbler: 5 LP 21 Jun (DM), CO-CF.
Pine Warbler: CMR 27 Jul (J&PT), CO-DD.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 12 PS 1 Jun (BC);
 7 BMR 15 Jul (JC), CO-FY.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 10 Es 1 Jun
 (LK); 7 BMT 23 Jun (CW), CO-FY.
Canada Warbler: 5 WV 9 Jun (BB).

Wilson's Warbler: BB 27 Aug (BMc).
Scarlet Tanager: 2 PtR 7 Jul (BS).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 3 BMR 4 Jul
 (AB).
Indigo Bunting: CMR 12 Aug (J&PT), CO-
 DD.



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The monthly weather for June 2019 featured near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation in the Region 8 counties. Both Albany and Glens Falls saw at least an inch more than the usual amount of rainfall, but it came well dispersed throughout the month. July offered well above normal temperatures with lower than usual precipitation amounts. The most prolonged heat wave occurred on 3-6 August, and Albany maxed out at 95° F on 20 August. August ended up close to the long-term averages for both temperature and rainfall. There were no significant cool air intrusions towards the end of August as would normally occur; Albany did not drop below 52° all month.

Temp	Albany			Glens Falls		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	68.0°	67.2°	+0.8°	64.3°	64.3°	0.0°
Jul	76.2°	71.8°	+4.4°	72.3°	68.8°	+3.5°
Aug	71.7°	70.1°	+1.6°	67.0°	67.0°	0.0°

Precip	Albany			Glens Falls		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	5.15"	3.79"	+1.36"	4.56"	3.55"	+1.01"
Jul	3.99"	3.86"	-0.13"	2.89"	4.09"	-1.20"
Aug	4.12"	3.46"	+0.66"	2.85"	3.68"	-0.83"

The bird of the season was undoubtedly a lone **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** that showed up at the Indian Pond on the campus of U Albany, discovered by Brian Smith on 4 June. This is the first sighting of the species for Region 8 in at least a decade. It was part of an incursion that developed throughout June in the Northeastern U.S., as well as Quebec and Nova Scotia. The duck, a one-day wonder, was not observed subsequently.

Zach Schwartz-Weinstein found and photographed an interesting calidrid sandpiper at Cohoes Flats on 10 July. After review and analysis by many

experienced shorebirders, the consensus was a very pale, out-of-season, out-of-range **Western Sandpiper**. This was a rare inland sighting for the Northeastern states away from the Great Lakes.

Continuing the uptick in Regional reports over the last decade, a Clay-colored Sparrow was sighted at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve-Blueberry Hill unit on a 1 June Birding Big Day outing. A second bird was reported from Wilton Wildlife Preserve in Saratoga County on 9 July.

At least two Sedge Wrens were reported again this season from the Ft. Edward Grasslands IBA in Washington County. First noted on 15 June, one was still singing occasionally in the first week of August.

Reports of cuckoos of both expected species seemed much higher this summer. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was observed in at least three dozen locations, and Black-billed Cuckoo numbers maintained the fine showing from 2018. There were no breeding season reports of Common Nighthawks locally. The first “fall” migrant nighthawks arrived during the second week of August. Peak numbers appeared to have declined again, with the thirty-four observed at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve on 26 August representing the maximum. In other nightjar news, the Chuck-will’s-widow(s) that had been noted in the West Mountain. region of Warren County for the last few years went undetected this season. Eastern Whip-poor-will continue in their local strongholds, namely Luther Forest in Malta, Coeymans Hollow near Stanton Pond, and the northern reaches of the Lake George area. Increasing numbers of calling birds were detailed at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, where as many as five birds were recorded on a single evening by surveyors.

Marshall Schmidt discovered a **Cattle Egret** in farm country west of Ballston Spa on 1 August. It was the first summer season sighting in the Region in quite some time, and quite random. The few that are seen here are normally much later in fall. Two Sandhill Cranes were observed on the west side of the Hudson River between Ft. Miller and Ft. Edward on 3 July. In addition to the Western Sandpiper mentioned previously, there were a few other uncommon sightings in this shorebird-challenged Region. Upland Sandpiper continues to breed in sections of the Ft. Edward grasslands and vicinity, as well as in similar habitat in Montgomery County. Lindsey Duval watched a Ruddy Turnstone drop in to Cohoes Flats for a breather on 1 August. Two reports of Sanderling were received during August. Naomi Lloyd found one on 26 August at Cohoes Flats, and Gary Chapin photographed the other one at Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Park in the Town of Wright, at the south end of Lake Champlain, on 30 August. Short-billed Dowitchers were seen on consecutive days, at Stockport Flats on 16 August, and at Cohoes Flats on the following day. Both sightings were recorded by David Harrison.

An out-of-season Red-throated Loon was discovered and photographed on Peck Lake in Fulton County on 20 July. It was fun to see a breeding-plumaged

bird in the Region, as they are usually a passage migrant in early spring and late autumn.

Sean Sime awoke to the hooting of a Long-eared Owl while overnighting near the Roaring Kill section of the Catskill Mountains. in Greene County on 31 August. He heard a Northern Saw-whet Owl there as well. Breeding-season reports of Bicknell's Thrush were received from several observers in the Hunter Mountain and Plateau Mountain areas of Greene County.

Hooded Warbler continues to expand northward into the area. On 26 July Matt Medler visited the Sanders Preserve in Glenville, Schenectady County and found two singing males and an agitated female, suggesting the presence of a nest in the vicinity. The preserve has been lightly birded in the past, and rarely in breeding season, so it isn't clear if this represents a first, or ongoing, attempt. Golden-winged Warbler continues to hang on in Region 8 with a few individuals found this June northeast of Whitehall in Washington County.

Bob Yunick provided field notes for the breeding season, as excerpted here:

NESTING SEASON (1 JUN 1 - 31 JUL 2019) – Robert P. Yunick

The following are observations from my feeding/banding operations in the Schenectady, NY area: **1)** feeder in my yard (**yard**) at Sch'dy; **2)** my Adirondack feeding/banding operation at Jenny Lake (**JL**) at 1250 ft. elev. 5 mi W of Corinth, Saratoga Co, NY; my nest box monitoring at **3)** West Hill (**WH**, 55 boxes), Town of Rotterdam, Sch'dy Co, NY; **4)** Landis Arboretum (**LA**, 40 boxes), Town of Esperance, Schoharie Co, NY; and **5)** birding on the Mohawk River (**MR**) east of Sch'dy at Lock 7 (**L7**), Niska-Isle (**NI**) and the old Niskayuna RR Station (**RRS**).

Highlights – overall, a disappointing season at JL.

1) Nest box monitoring – cooler and wetter weather during the season (before the extreme heat in Jul) led to far less blow fly infestation particularly in **Tree Swallow** nests as noted by far fewer blow fly pupae in used nests during removal following fledging. In my experience, blow fly activity is much greater in seasons when high temperatures occur during the peak of the swallow season in Jun. Twenty-four boxes at **WH** produced **94 banded nestlings**, 8 banded ad/F (5 of which were ASY age) and 2 ASY/F returns from previous years. Thirteen boxes at **LA** produced **56 banded nestlings**, and 1 banded SY/F and 1 return ASY/F. The **E. Bluebird** count was **20 banded nestlings** in 5 boxes at **WH** 5/22 to 7/16 with **4 boxes** still containing **14 eggs** on 7/16; and 2 boxes at **LA** produced **7 banded nestlings** 6/12 and 7/8. Lack of earlier coverage in May missed the first broods. Early **House Wren** nesting activity was somewhat suppressed by swallow and bluebird competition, but once swallows fledged and nests were removed, wren activity increased. At **WH 5 boxes** 6/24 to 7/16 produced **22 banded wrens** while **5 boxes at LA** 6/12 to 7/8 produced **23 banded nestlings**.

The **House Sparrow** problem these past few years at **WH** was much reduced this year. No nestlings reached banding stage and only 4 nests with or without eggs were removed. While House Sparrows are accustomed to adding all sorts of junk to their nests making for a very messy looking nest compared to the elegant neatness of a bluebird nest, one

sparrow female that made 2 nesting attempts must have found a dead Mourning Dove nearby because she used dove body feathers in both attempts including 30-40 breast feathers in the first attempt. I've never seen a House Sparrow nest with so many feathers.

2) Purple Finches at JL had another very disappointing breeding season due to climate change. At peak season as on 6/2/19, I operated 4.5 mist nets for 4 hrs from 0700 to 1100 and did not catch a one. For some strange reason, 2 weeks later on 6/15, I caught a season max of 18 consisting of 15 new birds banded and recaptures of one return bird and two repeats. It was all down hill after that with none caught on 7/13 and only one F on 7/20. The season total so far, from Apr is 1 banded in Apr, 7 in May, 20 in Jun and 8 in Jul; **total of 36. Only 4 of those are HY birds: 2 banded 7/6 and 2 on 7/27.** Years ago I banded dozens and dozens. Climate change is wiping out the recruitment needed to maintain the population.

Sunflower seed consumption mirrors this decline. After peaking at nearly 1400 g/day in Dec as part of large Blk-c Chickadee irruption, it dropped to below 500 g/day in Apr and peaked again at 1050 g/day in early Jun only to then continually decline thereafter to a low of 210 g/day by 7/28. In the past Purple Finches swarmed the feeders by late Jul consuming 1000-2000 g/day of seed.

On top of this climate issue, the dominant JL white pine population is under serious attack by White Pine Needle Disease (WPND), now recognized by NYS Dept. of Envir. Conservation as a serious threat to NY forests. Needles are under attack by 4 species of fungi causing premature needle drop in Jun/Jul (normally needles fall in Sep). I first noticed this phenomenon in Jul 2013 and it has occurred every year since this year's fall starting earlier than ever on 6/14 and being the heaviest I've ever seen at JL. The one-time dense canopies of these trees were a solid green; now they are so sparse one can see through them.

3) R-thr Hummer season is also disappointing for reasons not known. Since 5/13, 6 returns have been captured and 23 banded, last on 7/27 but none between 6/30 and 7/26. Four trapping sessions of 1 hr or more on 6/14, 7/5, 7/14 and 7/21 produced no captures. So far, no young have appeared. Sugar-water consumption this season has been below average, peaking at 92 g/day on 5/31 dropping to 7g/day by 7/21. In some past years of greater abundance, it has topped 1000 g/day.

On the contrary, hummer banding conducted by Ted Hicks and myself at a location at **Schroon Lake** in Essex Co, NY was very productive. On 3 dates, 5/25, 6/2 and 6/8, we accounted for **105 hummers**: 60 males (57 new and 3 returns) and 45 females (34 banded and 11 returns, one of which a station record of **8 yrs old**).

203 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Will Aubrey, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Nancy Castillo, Gary Chapin, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon,

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ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Coxsackie Creek Grasslands Preserve, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Preserve, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: Indian Pd, U Albany 4 Jun, *intro*, NYSARC.
Brant: max 50 Papscanee I NP RENS 3 Jun.
Wood Duck: max 81 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 3 Aug.
American Black Duck: max 39 CF 24 Jul.
Ruffed Grouse: max 10 Poestenkill Comm Forest RENS 4 Jun.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 2 Whitehall, WASH 1 Jun; BCM 2 Jun; Nutten Hooke COLU 4 Aug.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 2 mult loc.
Common Nighthawk: max 34 APBP 26 Aug; 16 Colonie ALBA 14 Aug.
Eastern Whip-poor-will: max 5 Malta Tech Park SARA 21 Jun.
Chimney Swift: max 100 CF 8 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 9 Hillsdale COLU 24 Aug.

RAILS-LARIDS

Virginia Rail: max 8 Carter Pd WMA WASH 30 Jul; 7 BCM 2 Jun; 7 FtEG 15 Jun.
Sora: max 2 Whitehall WASH 8 Jun; BCM 9 Jun.

Common Gallinule: 4 BCM 10 Jun; 4 Carter Pd WMA WASH 17 Aug; 2 Whitehall WASH 6 Jun; Putnam WASH 1 Jun; 2 VFNHP 3 Aug; Palatine MONT 8 Jun; CRM 11 Jun; Lions P, Niskayuna SCHE 18 Jun; T Sharon SCHO 30 Jun.

Sandhill Crane: nr Gansevoort SARA 3 Jul.

Semipalmented Plover: max 15 CF 4 Aug.

Killdeer: max 76 The Crossings ALBA 10 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: 12 W. Ames Rd MONT 30 Jun; 4 New Swamp Rd WASH 14 Jun; 2 Palatine MONT 3 Jul; Dowmont Rd, Ft Edward WASH 1 Jun; Battenville WASH 21 Jul; Fultonville MONT 29 Jul.

Ruddy Turnstone: CF 1 Aug.

Sanderling: CF 26 Aug; Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 30 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: max 15 CF 25 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 3 CF 3 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 2 Stockport Flats COLU 15 Aug.

Semipalmented Sandpiper: max 6 CF 8 Aug.

WESTERN SANDPIPER (R8): CF 10 Jul, *intro*, NYSARC.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Stockport Flats COLU 16 Aug; CF 17 Aug.

American Woodcock: max 4 Stillwater SARA 14 Jun; Warrensburg WARR 27 Jun.
Wilson's Snipe: max 2 HP 31 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 21 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 3 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 HP 31 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 5 CF 27 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 2 mult loc.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 5 L George WARR 24 Jul.
Ring-billed Gull: max 530 CF 25 Jul.
Herring Gull: max 14 Whitehall WASH 28 Jul.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 4 CF 23 Aug.
Caspian Tern: 4 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 18 Aug; 3 Galway L SARA 5 Jul; L George WARR 1 Jun, 2 Jul; New Baltimore GREE 15 Jul.
Common Tern: 2 Henry Hudson P ALBA 13 Jun; Halfmoon SARA 19 Aug.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: Peck L FULT 20 Jul.
Common Loon: max 12 L George WARR 2 Jul.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 80 TR 8 Aug.
American Bittern: max 4 BCM 2 Jun; Ft Ann WASH 11 Aug, ad & 3 juv.
Least Bittern: max 2 BCM 13 Jun; Stillwater Sch Nature Trail SARA 19 Jun.
Great Blue Heron: max 16 TR 12 Jul.
Great Egret: max 27 Germantown COLU 12 Aug.
CATTLE EGRET (R8): Charlton SARA 1 Aug.
Green Heron: max 8 Schaghticoke RENS 27 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 24 Aug; Sprakers MONT 26 Jun; Niskayuna SCHE 23 Aug.
Black Vulture: max 15 Guilderland ALBA 20 Aug.
Turkey Vulture: max 50 Sprakers MONT 28 Jul.
Osprey: max 6 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 1 Aug.
Northern Harrier: max 3 Seward SCHO 20 Jul.
Bald Eagle: max 10 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 17 Jun.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 Stillwater SARA 19 Jun.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 6 Pine L FULT 24 Aug.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 4 APBP 7 Jun, Hunter GREE 15 Aug.
Eastern Screech-Owl: max 2 Stockport COLU 20 Aug.
Great Horned Owl: max 2 mult loc.
Barred Owl: max 5 Clifton Park SARA 24 Jun.
Long-eared Owl: Hunter GREE 31 Aug.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Hunter GREE 31 Aug.
Belted Kingfisher: max 7 Stillwater Sch Nature Trail SARA 6 Aug.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 9 APBP 1 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 15 White Creek WASH 4 Aug.
Downy Woodpecker: max 9 BMB 14 Jul.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 Poestenkill RENS 25 Jul.
Northern Flicker: max 9 Hillsdale COLU 20 Jun.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 mult loc.
American Kestrel: max 11 Sprakers MONT 30 Aug.
Merlin: max 3 Silver Bay WARR 29 Jul, at nest.
Peregrine Falcon: max 4 Dunn Mem Brdg RENS 19 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 10 BMB 14 Jul; 8 APBP 9 Jun.
Eastern Kingbird: max 10 VFNHP 10 Aug; 8 FtEG 14 Jul; 7 APBP 9 Jun; 7 OCA 13 Jul.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: APBP 1 Jun; Pharaoh L Trail WARR 2 Jun; Vosburgh Swamp WMA GREE 27 Aug.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 12 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 15 Aug; 11 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 22 Jun; 10 BMB 19 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 2 Plateau Mt GREE 2 Jul.
Alder Flycatcher: max 9 BMB 19 Jun; 4 BCM 2 Jun.
Willow Flycatcher: max 23 BCM 9 Jun; 12 FtEG 13 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: max 11 Mt Tom SF WASH 2 Jun.

Eastern Phoebe: max 30 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 25 Aug.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Lions P Niskayuna SCHE 23 Jun; BMB 14 Jul.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 9 Spruceton Trail GREE 22 Jun.

Warbling Vireo: max 20 Schaghticoke RENS 7 Jun.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 33 Plotterkill Pres SCHE 4 Jul.

Fish Crow: max 45 Queensbury WARR 11 Aug.

Common Raven: max 8 Palenville GREE 15 Aug; 7 Johnsburg WARR 5 Aug; 6 FtEG 22 Jun.

Horned Lark: Saratoga County Arpt SARA 27 Jun, only report.

Purple Martin: max 22 Round L Pres SARA 22 Aug; 12 Saratoga Springs Waterfront P SARA 3 Jun.

Tree Swallow: max 600 Ghent COLU 1 Aug.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 35 CF 20 Jun.

Bank Swallow: max 50 Staats Island Rd, RENS 13 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: max 12 Cobleskill Res SCHO 19 Jun.

Barn Swallow: max 187 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 1 Aug.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 45 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 28 Jul.

Tufted Titmouse: max 39 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 15 Aug.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 Hague WARR 24 Jul.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 14 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 15 Aug.

Brown Creeper: max 4 Crystal L WARR 5 Aug.

House Wren: max 7 APBP 9 Jun.

Winter Wren: max 10 Plateau Mt GREE 9 Jun.

Sedge Wren: max 2 FtEG 23 Jun.

Marsh Wren: max 38 BCM 9 Jun; 8 Lions P, Niskayuna SCHE 23 Jun; 8 VFNHP 23 Jun.

Carolina Wren: max 11 Normanskill Farm ALBA 27 Jul.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 8 VFNHP 3 Aug.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 9 Mt Tom SF WASH 31 Aug.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last 3 Hunter Mt GREE 9 Jun; arr Charlton SARA 27 Aug.

Eastern Bluebird: max 25 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 16 Aug; 20 FR 27 Aug.

Veery: max 26 BMB 14 Jul; 15 Schodack I SP RENS 1 Jun.

Bicknell's Thrush: max 5 Plateau Mt GREE 3 Jul.

Swainson's Thrush: max 11 Plateau Mt GREE 3 Jul.

Hermit Thrush: max 8 Hunter Mt GREE 9 Jun.

Wood Thrush: max 10 Saratoga Spa SP SARA 24 Jun; Schodack I SP 16 Jul.

Gray Catbird: max 47 BMB 25 Aug.

Brown Thrasher: max 3 mult loc.

Northern Mockingbird: max 7 Albany Int Arpt ALBA 4 Jul; The Crossings ALBA 10 Jul.

Cedar Waxwing: max 50 BMB 20 Aug.

Evening Grosbeak: max 4 Oppenheim FULT 31 Aug.

Purple Finch: max 9 Johnstown FULT 6 Aug.

Red Crossbill: Spruceton Trail GREE 23 Jun; Hague WARR 24 Jul.

Pine Siskin: max 6 Livingston COLU 8 Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 19 APBP 1 Jun.

Chipping Sparrow: max 75 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 31 Aug.

Clay-colored Sparrow: APBP 1 Jun; Sharon Springs SCHO 25 Jun; Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 7 Jul.

Field Sparrow: max 30 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 25 Aug; 16 Putnam WASH 2 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 FtEG 16 Jul; Saratoga County Arpt SARA 10 Jun; Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 31 Aug.

Savannah Sparrow: max 25 OCA 6 Jul; 20 Albany Int Arpt ALBA 4 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 3 FtEG 23 Jun; 3 Saratoga County Arpt SARA 4 Jul; 2 Cobleskill SCHO 4 Jul; SNHP 14 Jun; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 22 Jun; Sharon Springs SCHO 2 Jul.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 Willie Wildlife Marsh FULT 11 Jun, only report.

Swamp Sparrow: max 54 BCM 9 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: max 7 Spruceton Trail GREE 22 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 12 Mountain Top Arboretum GREE 14 Jul.

Bobolink: max 180 Hillsdale COLU 25 Aug; 80 Halfmoon SARA 31 Aug; 61 OCA 6 Jun.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 7 FtEG 6 Jun, OCA 6 Jun.

Orchard Oriole: max 5 OCA 13 Jul; 4 SNHP 19 Jun.

Baltimore Oriole: max 10 Hoosick RENS 12 Jun.

Ovenbird: max 30 Spruceton Trail GREE 20 Jun; 29 Anchor Diamond P SARA 23 Jun; 15 Poestenkill Comm Forest RENS 4 Jun; 15 Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 8 Jun; 15 L Taghkanic SP COLU 26 Jun; 14 Schodack I SP RENS 1 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: 2 Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 15 Jun; 2 Alander Mt Trail COLU 7 Jun; Escarpment Trail GREE 7 Jun; Hillsdale COLU 10 Jun; Schor Cons Area COLU 13 Jun.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 HP 15 Jun; last 2 West Kill GREE 11 Aug.

Northern Waterthrush: 3 Cherry Plain SP RENS 5 Jun; 3 BMB 19 Jun.

Golden-winged Warbler: 2 Whitehall WASH 4 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 6 Valatie COLU 14 Jul; 4 Whitehall WASH 28 Jun; 4 Hillsdale COLU 8 Jul.

"Brewster's Warbler": Whitehall WASH 1 Jun.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 8 West Kill Mt GREE 4 Jun; 7 Mt Ton SF WASH 2 Jun; 7 Plateau Mt GREE 9 Jun.

Tennessee Warbler: max 2 Putnam WASH 1 Jun; last Putnam WASH 2 Jun; arr White Creek WASH 1 Aug, early; Johnsburg WARR 27 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: max 5 Garnet L WARR 1 Jun; 4 Cat & Thomas Mt Pres WARR 1 Jul; 3 Fox Hill Rd SARA 1 Jun; 3 L Desolation SF SARA 6 Jul;

Mourning Warbler: 2 Fox Hill Rd SARA 1 Jun; 2 Stony Creek WARR 29 Jun; 2 Middle Grove SARA 4 Jun; Oppenheim FULT 30 Jun; Schenectady Co Forest Pres SCHE 8 Jul.

Common Yellowthroat: max 26 BCM 2 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: max 3 Sanders Pres SCHE 26 Jul; Louise E. Keir WMA ALBA 8 Jun; L Taghkanic SP COLU 26 Jun; New Scotland ALBA 27 Jun.

American Redstart: max 30 Papscanee I SP RENS 1 Jun; 28 Schodack I SP RENS 1 Jun; 12 VFNHP 6 Jun; 12 Alander Mt Trail COLU 13 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: last Johnsburg Warr 1 Jun; arr Pine L FULT 30 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 Schodack I SP RENS 1 Jun; 2 Taconic SP COLU 7 Jun; 2 Alander Mt Trail COLU 14 Jun; Ancram COLU 1 Jun; Papscanee I SP RENS 1 Jun.

Northern Parula: 2 Archer Vly SARA 8 Jun; 2 Johnsburg WARR 9 Jun; 2 Stony Creek WARR 28 Jun; 2 Brant L WARR 9 Jul.

Magnolia Warbler: max 13 West Kill Mt GREE 4 Jun; mig arr Yankee Hill Lock MONT 24 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Cherry Plain SP RENS 1 Jun; arr Hague WARR 31 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 12 Johnsburg WARR 1 Jun; mig arr Hillsdale COLU 23 Aug..

Yellow Warbler: max 31 VFNHP 6 Jun.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 14 APBP 9 Jun.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 17 Plateau Mt GREE 3 Jul; 16 West Kill Mt GREE 4 Jun.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 12 West Kill Mt GREE 4 Jun; mig arr Yankee Hill Lock MONT 24 Aug.

Palm Warbler: Warrensburg WARR 7 Jul.

Pine Warbler: max 10 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 10 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 19 Spruceton Trail GREE 22 Jun.

Prairie Warbler: 12 APBP 9 Jun; 5 Putnam WASH 2 Jun; 5 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 7 Jul.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 15 Plateau Mt GREE 20 Jul; mig arr Normanskill Farm ALBA 25 Aug.

Canada Warbler: max 6 L Desolation SF SARA 6 Jul; mig arr Johnstown FULT 24 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: arr White Creek WASH 22 Aug.

Scarlet Tanager: max 7 Anchor Diamond P SARA 23 Jun.

Northern Cardinal: max 17 APBP 1 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 9 Summit SCHO 10 Jul.

Indigo Bunting: max 15 Guilderland ALBA 27 Aug.

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The National Weather Service records from Poughkeepsie reported a high temperature of 90° F on 28 June and a low of 41° on 4 June. Temperatures overall averaged 0.3° below normal. That was not the case, however, for much of the Region. Sullivan County had many nights throughout the month in the 40s and temperatures for June were well below normal overall. Also, according to the National Weather Service in Poughkeepsie, rainfall was 3.59", 0.83" below normal. This too was not characteristic of much of the Region. Sullivan and Orange Counties experienced above normal rainfall; Sullivan County had only four days out of the month with no rainfall at all. Water levels at locations like Bashakill State WMA and Wallkill River NWR were well above normal throughout the month. July was just the opposite. There was a low of 51° on 1 July and a high of 97° on 21 July. This was 3.7° above normal. The first half of the month was dry. There was 2.56" of rain, 2.09" below normal. Finally, on the night of 16 July, rain began to fall. Thunderstorms hit much of the Region and water levels increased. August came in at just about average. There was a high of 91° on 19 August and a low of 48° on 26 August. The average high temp was 82°, just .9° above normal. There was 4.33" of rain, .13" above normal.

June and July were typical of a “summer doldrums” period. It wasn’t until August that things began to pick up. That was short-lived however, with weather and wind patterns not being conducive to shorebird or early passerine migration. August ended with just a taste of what was hopefully still to come.

There were a few interesting waterfowl reports in the Region during the period. As many as two Snow Geese were reported in Ulster and Sullivan Counties in June. Hooded Mergansers were present throughout the period with breeding confirmed in at least four counties. A drake Greater Scaup found at Piermont Pier was unusual in June. Two Bufflehead that had been present throughout the spring period continued at the Rondout Reservoir through the month of June. At least one bird was still present through 31 August.

Sandhill Cranes were seen in the Orange County Black Dirt Region sporadically throughout the period, still present on 31 August. The Region’s first grasspiper report was a group of six American Golden-Plover in the Orange County Black Dirt Region on 31 August. That day produced the first fall record of Stilt Sandpiper, also in Orange County. On 28 July, Shelby Grimm looked out at her platform feeder and saw a **White-winged Dove** feeding there. Before she could get her camera, a car pulled into the drive and flushed the bird. The following morning, the bird returned briefly, then took off, not to be seen again.

This was a first record for Orange County and Region 9 and a NYSARC report was filed.

Once again, this season Laughing Gulls occurred along the Hudson River as far north as Croton Point Park in early June. A Black Skimmer was seen in the Rye area 9-11 June.

An amazing event took place on 3 August on the Hudson River. As the Sloop Clearwater was sailing down the Hudson, an immature **Brown Booby** flew in and perched on the ship's mast. The bird remained perched for half an hour to the delight of the passengers. It was well photographed and reported by Thomas Macom. This was also a first record for Orange County and Region 9.

Rapidly receding waters in July provided habitat for waders. A record 67 Great Egrets and 98 Great Blue Herons were recorded in the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge on 20 July. That Great Egret record would be broken on 13 August when 103 were reported in the evening going to roost. Other interesting waders present during the period included seven Little Blue Herons, two birds in Westchester, and one each in Ulster, Orange, Sullivan, Dutchess and Putnam Counties. This species has continued to increase in the Region in recent years. Of special note were two on-going Yellow-crowned Night-herons, this pair continued in Orange County at least through 8 July. Though a nest was built, no eggs were laid, and no incubation occurred. (See the article on pages 314-316 of this issue.) On 1 June, five Glossy Ibis were seen in flight at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. Also, at that location, on 22 June a **Mississippi Kite** was seen soaring overhead. A Red-headed Woodpecker was present at Muscoot Farm from early June through at least 30 July. Yet another Red-headed Woodpecker was found at Rockefeller State Park on 12 August.

On 17 August, Larry Trachtenberg found a **Western Kingbird** at Croton Point Park. This cooperative bird remained for eight days, enabling all who sought it out to see it. Pine Siskins put in a show at a couple of locations in July. At least two Grasshopper Sparrows that were present through the spring continued at Croton Point Park through at least to 24 June. The birds were seen again late in July and at least once in August. On 7 July the author found a pair of **breeding** Mourning Warblers on Hunter Road in the Town of Neversink. Two chicks could be heard begging in the thicket and both adults and one chick were photographed. The birds continued at least through 13 July. This is the first breeding record of this species in Sullivan County. Hooded Warblers were reported at Muscoot Farm the first week of July, an unusual location for this species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza, SULL; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BFAS** – Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary, DUTC; **BMSP** – Bear Mountain SP, ROCK; **BP** – Browns Pd, ORAN; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **CIOES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **CFSP** – Clarence Fahnestock SP, PUTN; **CMACS** – Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, DUTC; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **DR** – Doodletown Rd, ROCK; **DRT** – Dutchess Rail Trail, DUTC; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLH** – Esopus Meadows Light House, ULST; **FPNC** – Forsythe P and Nature Center, ULST; **GL** – Glenmere L, ORAN; **GMP** – Glasco Mini P, ULST; **GV** – Great Vly WMA, ULST; **HS** – Harcourt Sanctuary, ULST; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail, DUTC; **II** – Iona I, ROCK; **KL** – Kiamesha L, SULL; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; **LGC** – Laurel Grove Cemetery, ORAN; **LM** – Liberty Marsh, ORAN; **LR** – Larchmont Res, WEST; **LNP** – Lenoir Nature Preserve, WEST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MF** – Muscoot Farm, WEST; **MP** – Morningside P, SULL; **MPHW** – Mount Peter Hawk Watch, ORAN; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OINP** – Oscawana I Nature Preserve, WEST; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills and Ruth

Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; **PHP** – Peach Hill P, DUTC; **PITN** – Pine Island Turf Nursery, **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; ORAN; **RL** – Rhinecliff Landing, DUTC; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center, WEST; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP, WEST; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP, ORAN; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road, ORAN; **SS** – Sleightsburg Spit, ULST; **SSF** – SS State Forest, ORAN; **TBWMA** – Tivoli Bays WMA, DUTC; **THMUA** – Taconic-Herford Multiple Use Area, DUTC; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill Ri NWR, ORAN.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: Thorton Rd, SULL 14 Jun (SBal, JH, KMi, ABo); 2 Lazy Swan ULST 30 Jun (RM), *intro*.

Wood Duck: 362 BSWMA 28 Aug (JH).

Blue-winged Teal: max 8 WRNWR 18-23 Aug (TS, DBrie, DSP); max 15 MP 29 Aug (JH); 2 MC 30 Aug (GB, TB); 6 Beaver Pd ORAN 31 Aug (BNo, KA, MZ).

Gadwall: WRNWR 14 Jun (VH).

Northern Pintail: Kingston Res ULST 5 Jul (PSch).

Ring-necked Duck: Rye L WEST 5 Aug (DSi).

Greater Scaup: PP 29 Jun-3 Jul (ME, SBal, CCo).

Bufflehead: 2 RR 1-27 Jun (RS, SBal, JH); RR 3 Jul-31 Aug (JH, SBal, KMi, AB). Over summered, *intro*.

Hooded Merganser: 3 HVRT 1 Jun (BM); 2 SFSP 2 Jun (JSh); max 5 CIOES 3-23 Jun (BM); 9 Kingston Res 8 Jun (WT, JP, PSch); 15 BSWMA 8 Jun (AWelb); 6 Isaacson Preserve WEST 8 Jun (GB, TB); 5 Neversink R SULL 17 Jun (JH); 5 Bordens Rd ORAN 17 Jun (CK); 4 Isaacson Preserve 2 Jul (TA); BSWMA 3 Jul (JH); 4 Hurleyville Swamp SULL 14 Jul-15 Aug (JH, KMi), *intro*.

Ruddy Duck: Chadwick L ORAN 12 Aug (KMcD), only report.

Northern Bobwhite: TMR Farm DUTC 5 Jul (DvZ, AS, CP); 4 SSF 5 Jul (AWell).

Ruffed Grouse: Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 1 Jun (AS, DvZ, JAs); Forestburgh SULL 1 Jun (NHa); Catskill P ULST 8 Jun (DH).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Newburgh ORAN 28-29 Jul (SG), *intro*.

Common Nighthawk: Lucas Avenue ULST 1 Jun (MBow); SFSP 22 Jun (EGor); White Plains WEST 18 Aug (GK); 56 BSWMA 28 Aug (JH).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: Fahnestock SP PUTN 2-15 Jun (AM, CRo, AS); BSWMA 8-12 Jun (LW, JG, SBal, mob); 2 Dover Plains DUTC 4

Jun (BM, DvZ, MK); Dover DUTC 6-18 Jun (AM, JA); 9 Bald Rocks ORAN 8 Jun (DWa).

RAILS – LARIDS

Clapper Rail: max 13 (2 ad, 11 y) MC 1 Jun-31 Aug (GB, KMcG, BS, mob).

Virginia Rail: 2 SFSP 1 Jun (MSt); max 2 SHSR 2-16 Jun (KA); max 2 WRNWR 5-15 Jun (JCi, VH, GB); SGNWR 12 Jun (BBus); CMACS 15 Jun (HM); max 3 CIOES 16-22 Jun (DFa, DK, AM); Geiger Marsh ULST 18 Jun (PDec); GV 23 Jun (CF); max 6 SGNWR 9 Jul (RT).

Sora: BSWMA 1 Jun (MBo); max 5 WRNWR 1-23 Jun (KA, TP, MY); SGNWR 4 Jun (GB, TB); SHSR 16 Jun (KA); BSWMA 17 Jul (SBal).

American Coot: WRNWR 6 Jun (JCi); WRNWR 24 Jun (FP).

Sandhill Crane: Taconic Parkway DUTC 12 Jun (DK); HVRT 7-10 Jul (CP, AM, DK, mob); WRNWR 18-22 Jul (KMi, LSer, MZ); 2 WRNWR 11-31 Aug (MZ, KA, LSer).

American Oystercatcher: max 7 MC 1 Jun-9 Aug (GB, DJ, TB, mob); 2 EGR 16 Jun-6 Aug (GB, TB, CM); continuing throughout the period.

Black-bellied Plover: MP 10 Aug (JH), only report.

American Golden-Plover: 6 PITN 31 Aug (BNo, KMi, LSer, mob), only report.

Semipalmated Plover: max 21 EGR 26 Jul-3 Aug (GB, TB); Washington L ORAN 31 Jul-3 Aug (BNo); max 18 MC 3-10 Aug (CRo, KB, SC, mob); max 5 PP 4-8 Aug (LP, ME, SBal, KR); max 3 WRNWR 8-11 Aug (LSer, MZ, KA); MP 23 Aug (JH).

Stilt Sandpiper: Beaver Pd ORAN 31 Aug (BNo, KMi, AM, mob), only report, *intro*.

Upland Sandpiper: SGNWR 5 Jun (DO); CPP 17-18 Aug (CR, UM, RL, ABu, ABa).

Ruddy Turnstone: max 5 Rye WEST 31 Jul-29 Aug (GB, TB, SC).

Least Sandpiper: max 31 Strever Farm DUTC 20-22 Jul (BM, CP, DvZ, mob); 8 Beaver Pd 22 Jul (KA); max 16 CPP 4-21 Jul (ME, KR, VH); max 12 MP 23 Jul-23 Aug (JH, KMi, mob); max 40 18 Jul-18 Aug (MZ, KA, mob).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Strever Farm 15-16 Jul (CP, CF, DvZ); EGR 25 Jul (BNI); CPP 28 Jul (SC); MC 7-10 Aug (GB, TB, KBa); MP 13-15 Aug (JH); PP 16 Aug (GC); Pine Hill Rd ORAN 21 Aug (KA).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 15 CPP 18 Jul (KR); max 6 Strever Farm 21 Jul-22 Aug (BM, SJ, CP); 6 MP 23 Jul (JH, KMi).

Laughing Gull: 3 Haverstraw Bay County P WEST 1 Jun (AKo); max 42 MC 3 Jun-9 Aug (GB, VH, CRI); max 14 EGR 6 Jun-6 Aug (GB, TB); 2 CPP 16 Jun (MF); NCR 22 Jun (EM), *intro*.

Least Tern: max 3 MC 5-13 Jul (GB, SC, SW); EGR 9 Jul (AS, DvZ).

Caspian Tern: 2 SS 14 Jun (JY); 3 Saugerties Lighthouse ULST 14 Jun (RM); 2 KP 17 Jun (PS); PP 27 Jul (ME); max 2 Kingston ULST 4-9 Aug (DWe, FM, LQ, PSch).

Black Tern: Kensico Res WEST 23-25 Aug (NG).

Common Tern: max 58 MC 1-24 Jun (BSh, VH, PDeG, mob); Mills-Norrie SP DUTC 5 Jun (DC); 6 EGR 6-24 Jun (GB, TB, BSt, BNi).

Forster's Tern: max 2 PP 1-2 Aug (KR).

Black Skimmer: Rye Town P WEST 9 Jun (GB, TB); Milton Pt WEST 11 Jun (PCI), *intro*.

LOONS – FALCONS

Common Loon: EGR 2 Jun (CM); Croton Falls Res WEST 13-21 Jun (SC); EGR 25-29 Jun (GB, TB); RR 3-4 Jul (JH, SBa); Ossining WEST 31 Jul (LT); Ashokan Res ULST 17 Aug (MW); max 3 Kensico Res 20-23 Aug (NG).

BROWN BOOBY: Hudson R ORAN 3 Aug (Thomas Macom), *intro*.

Great Cormorant: Five Islands P WEST 21 Aug (VH), only report.

American Bittern: max 2 BSWMA 1 Jun-8 Jul (JH, SBa, KMi, MBoc, mob); WRNWR 5 Jul-13 Aug (JM, DM).

Least Bittern: BSWMA 17-20 Jul (JH, SBa); SHSR 15 Jun-28 Jul (RHan, MZ, KA); max 5 WRNWR 1 Jun-22 Aug (KA, MZ, AM, mob).

Great Blue Heron: 98 WRNWR 20 Jul (MZ, LScr), *intro*.

Great Egret: max 15 MC 1-22 Jun (GB, VH, BSh, mob); max 12 EGR 2-21 Jun (GB, BSt);

2 Haverstraw Bay County P 6 Jun (AWell); PP 8-21 Jun (KR, JT, FD); Route 207 Marsh ORAN 9 Jun (BNo); KP 12-17 Jun (FM, DFe); SS 14 Jun (JY); Rhinecliff Landing P DUTC 15 Jun (BM, DvZ); SS 20 Jun (GC); max 67 WRNWR 14 Jul (KA, KMi, LScr, KMcD, mob); max 2 BSWMA 20 Jul -22 Aug (JH, KMi, SBa, mob); max 103 WRNWR 13 Aug (RJ, DM), *intro*.

Little Blue Heron: CIES 8 Jun (CCh); MC 12-14 Jul (SC, JCu, NHe); SS 16 Jul (JY); Larchmont Res WEST 3 Aug (BNI); Wallkill R ORAN 17 Aug (BNo, JH, MZ, KMi); RR 19-23 Aug (JH, SBa, KMi, NHa, LV, SS); CMACS 22-24 Aug (AM, SC, KB, JK), *intro*.

Green Heron: max 20 Dutchess P L DUTC 27 Jun (LF), high count.

Snowy Egret: max 9 MC 1-24 Jun (JCa, KMcG, PCI); max 4 EGR 6-24 Jun (GB, BSt, BNi); CPP 16 Jun (SRap).

Black-crowned Night-heron: Ossining Train Station WEST 1 Jun (LT); max 3 MC 1 Jun -6 Aug (GB, PCI, DJ, mob); max 2 Masterson P ORAN 9-23 Jun (BNo); 2 Lents Cove P WEST 9 Jun (SR); max 6 EGR 9-21 Jun (GB, BSt); 3 Croton Falls Res WEST 13 Jun (SC); 2 West Branch Res PUTN 14 Jun (SC); Lake Tappan ROCK 18 Jun (KR).

Yellow-crowned Night-heron: max 2 VanBurenville Rd ORAN 1 Jun-8 Jul (JD, JH), *intro*.

Glossy Ibis: 5 WPRR 1 Jun (LW); 3 EMLH 23 Aug (DWe, JSu), *intro*.

Northern Harrier: WRNWR 1 Jun (MY, HL); OCBDR 9 Jun (TP, JAP); Storm King SP ORAN 9 Jun (Aiden Colligan); SGNWR 23 Jun (MFI).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: WPRR 22 Jun (IC), *intro*.

Great Horned Owl: WPRR 1 Jun (LSch); 2 Minnewaska Trail ULST 2-19 Jun (CK); SGNWR 4 Jun (GB, TB); Gypsy Trail Rd PUTN 13 Jun (PL); Teatown L Reservation WEST 14 Jun (CRO); 2 GV 16 Jun (PS).

Red-headed Woodpecker: MF 2 Jun (MS, BSt, GB, TB, mob); Briarcliff Rd WEST 24 Jun (SF); MF 1-30 Jul (SK, AS, FGr, CA, mob); RSP 12-30 Aug (AS), *intro*.

Merlin: BSWMA 2 Jun (SBa); FPNC 6 Jun (RM); WRNWR 24 Jun (BT); Pine Bush ORAN 28 Jul (WH); Wallkill Valley Rail Trail ULST 28 Jul (SM); Hurleyville Swamp SULL 2 Aug (NH); MP 13-27 Aug (JH); RR 22 Aug (JH).

Peregrine Falcon: 2 PP 5 Jun (VH); 2 Hawks Nest ORAN 14 Jun (SBar); 3 Hudson

Highlands SP PUTN 14 Jun (EW); AP 16 Aug (JH).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

WESTERN KINGBIRD (R9): CPP 17-24 Aug (LT, SC, AS, mob), *intro*.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: BMSP 1 Jun (ME, PH, AKo, EL); PHP 3 Jun (DWe); max 2 SFSP 1-4 Jun (JCo, LL); BSWMA 21 Aug (JH); BSWMA 23 Aug (SBal); SFSP 31 Aug (GB, TB).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: BMSP 1-4 Jun (ME, RHai); Harriman SP ORAN 6 Jun (DBe); max 2 Slide Mountain ULST 8-19 Jun (EGoo, AKe, MO); Slide Mountain 23 Jun (PS); RNC 25 Aug (GB, TB, PCI, JCI).

Swainson's Thrush: RSP 1 Jun (The Salmons); 3 Pomona ROCK 4 Jun (WM); BSWMA 8 Jun (AWelb); SFSP 24 Jun (EF).

Pine Siskin: Cornwall ORAN 30 Jun- 30 Jul (CS); 2 Rhinebeck DUTC 4 July (SJ); 2 Bedford 9 Jun (GB, TB).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS - CARDINALIDS

Vesper Sparrow: Indiana Rd ORAN 26 Jun (KMi).

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Rockefeller Lane WEST 1 Jun (CP); max 11 SGNWR 1-24 Jun (DK, DWa, SBal, mob); max 2 CPP 1-24 Jun (SK, AS, SC, mob); max 4 OCBDR 4-24 Jun (MOB, DBril, MZ); CPP 22 Jul (AS, BNi, FGr), *intro*.

Yellow-breasted Chat: OMRLMSP 4-11 Jun (JCl, DL, mob); MC 14 Jul (NHe, JCu).

Nashville Warbler: Croton-on-Hudson WEST 15 Aug (CRo).

Mourning Warbler: Catskill Forest ULST 23 Jun (PS); 4 Hunter Rd SULL 7-13 Jul (JH, SBal, ABo), first breeding record Sullivan County, *intro*.

Hooded Warbler: max 2 MF WEST 1-7 Jul (SK, AS, PCI, mob); max 9 Neversink River Unique Area SULL 10 Jul (JH), *intro*.

Blue Grosbeak: RSP 15 Jul (BBr).

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REGION 10—MARINE

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Recognition of global climate change as a serious concern continues to grow, particularly in our Region where we have extreme population density and an abundance of coastline. According to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information – State Climate Summaries,* the mean annual temperature has increased approximately 2° F over the last two decades, and “under a higher emissions pathway, historically unprecedented warming is projected by the end of the 21st century.” According to the report, sea level has risen by about 13" since the late 19th century along the NY coast, above the global average rise of 8", and is projected to continue to rise more rapidly than global averages due to local and regional factors. NY has also experienced a large increase in heavy rain events, with further increases projected.

*<https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/ny/>

This summer's weather data again shows higher than normal temps, significantly so in July, and after a wetter than normal June and July in the city, a bit of a drier average in August. Highest temperatures occurred on 21 July, when 99° was recorded in Islip and 95° in Central Park, and lowest on 4 June, with 46° in Islip and 54° in Central Park. Cold fronts sometimes produce low temperatures in August, and the 26th and 27th brought 61° and 54° to Central Park and Islip, respectively.

Temp	Central Park			Islip		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	71.7°	71.4°	+0.3°	69.2°	68.4°	+1.2°
Jul	79.6°	76.5°	+3.1°	78.1°	73.9°	+4.2°
Aug	75.5°	75.2°	+0.3°	73.6°	72.8°	+0.8°

Precip	Central Park			Islip		
	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	5.46"	4.41"	+1.05"	3.76"	4.27"	-0.51"
Jul	5.77"	4.60"	+1.17"	3.39"	3.43"	-0.04"
Aug	3.70"	4.44"	-0.74"	3.49"	3.98"	-0.49"

As usual, spring migration continued into June, with 1 June featuring a particularly impressive flight that was both widespread and diverse. One of the most intriguing records of the season involved an unseen bird singing that day at Southards Pond Park in Babylon, Suffolk County. Chase Cammarota obtained recordings and shared them with biologists who confirmed the bird's identity as a **Connecticut Warbler**, a species almost unknown in Region 10 in spring. A reprise of this sort of situation occurred at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, where an unseen bird was recorded on several dates 2-20 June. Initially, finder Heydi Lopes suspected Mourning Warbler, but analyses of her recordings indicated it was a Kentucky Warbler. In both cases at least some experienced consultants remained unconvinced that Northern Waterthrush (Southards) or Mourning Warbler (Floyd Bennett) were conclusively ruled out, but fortunately the archived recordings can be re-visited at any time.

As New York birders prepare for the start of the third breeding bird atlas in 2020, an increase in attention to breeding activity was noticeable during the summer of 2019. Sources of data available to us included research conducted on converted landfills in New York City; surveys at the Greentree Foundation property in Manhasset by Stephane Perreault; the revived Captree June Count, now with five years of current data for southwestern Suffolk County; and informal concentrations of attention to breeding species in the pine barrens, Calverton grasslands, and the Napeague-Montauk savannahs and woodlands. As we anticipate the new atlas, it seems likely that understanding of species such as Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak is at least broadly accurate. Novelty generates excitement, and this season's breeding season highlights include continuing increases in Bald Eagle

breeding activity, a repeat of last summer's successful Red-shouldered Hawk nesting, and suggestions of attempted nesting by Red Crossbills, continuing from spring. Even more amazing was the work of Taylor Sturm and his crew of owl whisperers; in a limited amount of directed effort, they were able to find multiple Northern Saw-whet Owls in several areas, including no fewer than three in southwestern Suffolk County on the Captree June Count.

But for species that once were common but now are declining, birders tend to seek them only to the extent needed to add them to a year list and not beyond that, and there is a real likelihood that we are in for some unpleasant surprises when the comprehensive atlas data are assembled. In this report, we've made an effort to record data bearing on a wide variety of species. Some, such as Northern Bobwhite and Ring-necked Pheasant are known to be in serious peril, or even functionally extirpated already, in our Region. Others, such as Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows, are thriving in the newly available grasslands atop the erstwhile dumps. But many others are poorly understood, even in our well-studied Region. Nightjars, Yellow-throated Vireo, Horned Lark, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, various scarce warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak are either common at other seasons, or at least easy enough to find at traditional breeding sites, that searching out secondary breeding sites is not highly prized. We are left wondering whether reporting of them from alarmingly few sites reflects status or effort. In the first atlas, nesting by Chestnut-sided Warbler was confirmed in 16 blocks on Long Island and probable in two dozen more; this summer the species was not reported in even a possible breeding context in Region 10.

This summer struck us as very unexceptional for shorebirds and seabirds, as broad groups. Counts tended to be low for many species in both groups. For example, classic East Pond species such as Lesser Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpiper again produced dismal maxima. In this context, it is worth noting two Wilson's Phalaropes at the Jerome Park Reservoir in the Bronx, proof that urban birders must be patient and persistent as sites evolve in and out of productive modes over a scale of decades. All of the shearwaters tended to be encountered in very small numbers, whether from shore or from several productive offshore trips. The latter produced the now expected rarities (**Black-capped Petrel**, **Audubon's Shearwater**, **White-faced, Band-rumped**, and **Leach's Storm-Petrels**, and a **Bridled Tern**), but, amazingly for old-timers, these are losing their shock-value, and we find ourselves more concerned with the very low counts of common species, such as Great and Sooty Shearwaters.

In something of a contrast, Caspian and Black Terns were very well reported this summer, over a very wide variety of dates, from June through August. Common Terns resembling the eastern Palearctic subspecies *longipennis* have been documented multiple times in recent years on Long Island and elsewhere in the northeastern US. A bird studied and photographed at Nickerson Beach on 22 June was regarded by many as a particularly convincing example: in addition to showing a black bill and very dark legs, this individual also showed extensively and deeply gray underparts and very long tail streamers, extending beyond the

wingtips at rest. These are characteristic of *longipennis* and not expected in immature/non-breeding/senescent variants of the local subspecies, which might show darker than usual bills or legs in June. Even so, the task of ruling out variant *hirundo* is not a simple matter, and an article assessing this problem is in preparation by SSM. There were a couple of **Sandwich Terns** and several **Arctic Terns** in June, all along the southwestern shore of Long Island, from Fire Island Inlet to Brooklyn, and mostly centered at Nickerson Beach. This site has been receiving increasingly intense and capable coverage in recent years, as have Breezy Point and other sites around Rockaway Inlet. This increasing effort is undoubtedly both a cause and an effect of the many noteworthy records these sites have been producing. Arctic Tern was not reported from Moriches Inlet at all this season, absent there for the first time since its occurrence at Cupsogue was first detected in 2005; but one on the Captree June Count reminded both of us of June 1999, when we commenced studying terns together at Democrat Point.

Rarities included up to 12 **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks**, continuing around Jones Inlet from spring; **White-winged Doves** at Jones Beach and Coney Island; a long-staying **Sandhill Crane** in Napeague; the **Bridled Tern** at Great Gull Island (in addition to the one offshore, mentioned above), returning for a fourth year; and an unknown number of **Brown Boobies**! One was reported as having spent much of July and August in Freeport, perching on vessels, and one was encountered and photographed by a stunned Vincent Glasser as it sat in a parking lot at Heckscher State Park. There were also two detections via seawatches from Mecox Bay and Robert Moses SP. The increasing vagrancy of this species deserves close attention. **Mississippi Kites** were found on Staten Island, where a series of records have accumulated in recent years, and also in eastern Long Island, where they remain much rarer than elsewhere in NYS. A **Gray Kingbird** was seen briefly and photographed near Moriches Inlet, Suffolk County, on 21 July.

During the summer of 2019, the birding communities of Region 10 and New York State lost two longstanding members who played important roles in the history of the Federation/NYSOA, and also in our own lives. Anthony J. Lauro passed away unexpectedly in early August at the age of 86. Tony was a former Region 10 editor and co-editor and published several pioneering papers on bird identification. He was the voice of the NYC Area Rare Bird Alert for many, many years before Tom Burke took it over, and continued to vet rare bird reports over the phone right up to the end. Skeptical and direct, Tony caused many a caller to squirm under his grilling questions and tongue-in-cheek comments! For decades he was a familiar sight here on Long Island, tooling around the beaches in his Pathfinder, a smoking pipe grasped in his teeth as he held forth with whomever his companions/captives were for that day. Even when he could no longer get around, he remained sharp and interested in the birding world, and continued to fill in for Tom as the voice of the RBA right up to the end. Those who knew him well will remember him variously as generous, deep-thinking, analytical, witty,

mentoring, cantankerous, and authoritative. We hope to be able to assemble a gathering of friends to commemorate his life in the near future.

We came to know Miriam (Mickey) Levine, Manny Levine's wife, during our early years of doing the Southern Nassau CBC, which Manny compiled for many years before handing the baton to us in 2002. Back at the Levine house after the counts, we'd tally up and have a tot with Mickey and get her feeder survey numbers before heading over to Otto's for the compilation. We carried on this tradition even after Manny passed away, always including her in the count activities. Outspoken and possessing a great sense of humor, Mickey would regale us with stories of their early lives and their pioneering trips to Africa and South America—these taken long before the bird tour business simplified the arrangements and guiding. Mickey was a prolific artist, and her sculpture and paintings graced every room in their house. She loved the life and culture of New York City, particularly Broadway shows. An avid reader with a strong moral compass, she was a sharp interpreter of culture and politics—always an interesting conversationalist. We celebrated her 96th birthday with her on 19 August, one week before she died.

Both these dear friends will be sorely missed.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APEC – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BLSP** – Belmont L SP, SUFF; **BNL** – Brookhaven Nat'l Lab, Upton, SUFF; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CICP** – Coney Is Creek P, KING; **CJC** – Captree June Count, a CBC-style count in the Captree CBC circle, southwestern SUFF; **CLP** – Clove Lakes P, RICH; **CMB** – Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CRSP** – Connetquot Ri SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **DP** – Democrat Pt, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FINS** – Fire Is Nat'l Seashore, SUFF; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **GGI** – Great Gull I, SUFF; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HC** – Hudson Canyon, SUFF; **HG** – Hunters Garden, Riverhead, SUFF; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **Jam Bay** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **MBI** – Moriches Bay and In, SUFF; **Mtk** – Montauk, T of East Hampton, SUFF; **Mpt** – Montauk Pt, SUFF; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **Old Inlet** – Bellport Bay, SUFF; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **Sagg** – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; **SLP** – SeeLife Paulagies; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **Stonebridge** – Stonebridge Nighthawk Watch, Setauket, SUFF; **TLC** – Top of the Lobster Claw, ~80 mi se Shinn, SUFF; **WPP** – Wolfe's Pd P, RICH.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

max 12 JBSP 3-4 Jun; also 10 together OMNSA 5 Jun and 10 together NB 10-30 Jun; also multiple reps of 2 and 8 at these and other sites around Jones Inlet to early Jul; *intro*.

Brant: max 250 Big Egg Marsh, QUEE 1 Jun (C. Finger et al.), lingering northbound migrants.

Canada Goose: 765 CJC 8 Jun, FL; comparable to the past two years and the most numerous species on the count.

Mute Swan: 148 CJC 8 Jun, FL.

Wood Duck: 2 CJC 8 Jun, uncommon and local breeder in Region; max 41 Grist Mill Pd, Stony Brook, SUFF 25 Aug (S&FMu, EMu).

Blue-winged Teal: max 57 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).

Northern Shoveler: max 47 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).

Gadwall: 1 CJC 8 Jun, uncommon and local breeder in Region; max 62 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).

American Wigeon: max 8 Jam Bay 16 Jun (G. Lam).

American Black Duck: 1 CJC 8 Jun, uncommon and local breeder in Region; max 127 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).

Mallard: 196 CJC 8 Jun; max 425 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).

Northern Pintail: max 2 Jam Bay 26 Aug (J. O'Sullivan).

Green-winged Teal: max 27 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).

Ring-necked Duck: m Blydenburgh P SUFF 7 Jul-21 Aug (S&FMu).

Greater Scaup: only four reps: 1 CJC 8 Jun; 4 Santapogue Cr, SUFF 16 Jun (PJV, SSM); f GKP 8 Jul (ACi) and nearby Oakwood Beach 22 Jul (E. Johnson); Bay Shore Marina, SUFF 12 Jul (C. Mahon).

Lesser Scaup: 1 CJC 8 Jun; 2 m Santapogue Cr 16 Jun (PJV, SSM); arr Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 17 Aug (S. Gilbert), early.

Common Eider: 22 CJC 8 Jun; max 183 Shinn 3 Jul (A. Baldelli).

Surf Scoter: 3 CJC 8 Jun; max 7 Orient Pt 9 Jun (JSep).

White-winged Scoter: max 3 Shadmoor SP, SUFF 26 Jun (J. Milton).

Black Scoter: 1 CJC 8 Jun; max 140 Pike's Beach, SUFF 23 Aug (TWB, GB).

Long-tailed Duck: 2 CJC 8 Jun.

Bufflehead: f OMNSA 10 Jul (MBK et al.), only rep.

Common Goldeneye: Charles Mem. P, QUEE 1, 5, 24 Jun (R. Serio), only rep.

Hooded Merganser: 6 reps RICH, KING, QUEE, SUFF, the most notable at Wertheim NWR SUFF 9 Jun & 27 Aug (A. Blanchard), a site where breeding is conceivable.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 4 Jam Bay 3 Jun (A. Ruffatti).

Ruddy Duck: 1 CJC 8 Jun; max 17 Jam Bay 2 Jun (T. Winston et al.).

Ring-necked Pheasant: a few apparently wild birds persist RICH, KING, QUEE.

Northern Bobwhite: little evidence of natural populations remaining in R10; f Mtk Village, SUFF 1 Jun, possibly wild.

Wild Turkey: max 30 BNL (EL).

Pied-billed Grebe: HLS 1 Jun (G. Lam); IHP 23 Jun (N. O'Reilly); Jam Bay 18-24 Jun (mob); PBP 20 Aug (PHo).

Rock Pigeon: 69 CJC 8 Jun; max 455 414 E 52nd St, NEWY 1 Jul (A. Farnsworth).

Eurasian Collared Dove: Battery P, NEWY 21 Aug (I. Glovinsky).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: JBSP 5 Aug (S. Meyerheinrich et al, ph.); CICP 11 Aug (DGö, ph.).

Mourning Dove: 120 CJC 8 Jun; max 75 Miller Field, RICH 23 Aug (ACi).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 3 CJC 8 Jun, low; max 7 BNL 28 Jun (EL).

Black-billed Cuckoo: few reports and no more than 2 per day, KING, QUEE, and SUFF.

Common Nighthawk: just 4 Jun reps: New Dorp, RICH 6 Jun (H. Fischer); Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, RICH (CBa); NB 9 Jun (C. Thomas); 3 Fort Pd, Mtk 14 Jun (FD); 10 arr Stonebridge 14 Aug (PDom); max 148 Stonebridge 30 Aug (PDom et al.).

Chuck-will's-widow: on territory Quogue, SUFF, trad site; two reps from e part of FINS, trad.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: 4 CJC 8 Jun; 2 Manorville SUFF 14 Jul (C. McVoy); 2 Quogue, SUFF many dates; 6 Nap 28 Jun (AnW); 1 Hither Woods, Mtk sev dates; only reps. Other sites where singing birds were recorded in May were not re-surveyed this season.

Chimney Swift: 49 CJC 8 Jun; max 175 CICP 10 Aug (DGo).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 4 CJC 8 Jun; max 11 RMSP 31 Aug (PJL et al.).

RAILS-LARIDS

Clapper Rail: 7 CJC 8 Jun.

Virginia Rail: 1 CJC 8 Jun.

Common Gallinule: Jam Bay (W Pd) 28 Jun (A. Gilbert, B. Honig); Oakwood Beach, RICH 30 Jul (ACi).

American Coot: PP thru (mob); Baisley Pd, QUEE 16 Jun (C. Finger).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Nap through 13 Jul (mob), from spring.

American Avocet: differently plumaged inds arr 19 Aug: Tiana Beach (E. Schwinn), alt; and Mecox Bay (M. Stokowski), basic; former cont ca. Shinn through 23 Aug; latter joined by alt ind 29 Aug (R. Shea, SST); basic ind cont Mecox Bay thru 31 Aug; Sagg 29-30, basic, might have been a third ind.

American Oystercatcher: 75 CJC 8 Jun, FL; max 205 JBWE 9 Aug and later (PDom et al.).

Black-bellied Plover: 5 CJC 8 Jun; max 200 SPCP 27 Aug (K. Cashman).

American Golden-Plover: ad HSP 30-31 Aug (mob); ad Islip Beach SUFF 31 Aug (EMu, F&SMu), thought to be same ind.

Semipalmated Plover: max 453 Big Egg Marsh, QUEE 18 Aug (M. Benoit, L. DeMarco, JM).

Piping Plover: 24 CJC 8 Jun; max 45 CCP 30 Jul.

Killdeer: 29 CJC 8 Jun, DD; max 60 Jerome P Res BRON 16 Aug (BF).

Whimbrel: rep more frequently and widely than usual; max 17 JBSP 8 Aug (K&SF, MSche).

Hudsonian Godwit: MBI 2 Aug (S. Newbert, SSt, R. Valente); Old Inlet 31 Jul-4 Aug (NG et al.).

Marbled Godwit: arr MBI 1 Aug, with max 11 there 10 Aug (H. Bohne, J. Levin), reps through; Old Inlet 3-17 Aug, with max 3 there 6 Aug (A. Gilbert); 5 JBSP 8 Aug (K&SF); 2 PlumbB 9 Aug (D. Smith); 2 BPt 20 Aug (PPau, L. Ewing); PlumbB 22 Aug (PPau, G. Keri).

Ruddy Turnstone: max 256 CCP 1 Jun (PMo, TS).

Red Knot: max 190 Old Inlet 4 Aug (PJL, SSM).

Stilt Sandpiper: max 9 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk), low.

Sanderling: 29 CJC 8 Jun.; max 4000 Old Inlet 4 Aug (PJL, SSM).

Dunlin: 48 CCP 1 Jun (PMo TS), late for so many.

Baird's Sandpiper: HSP 31 Aug (MBK, D. Mullins, et al.), only rep.

Least Sandpiper: max 100 JBWE 20 Jul (PHo) & 100 CCP 2 Aug (P. Aitken).

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 6 CCP 12 Aug (J. Lee).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: FBF 22 Aug (JM et al.), only rep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 9 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 CJC 8 Jun; northbound max 1000 Big Egg Marsh, QUEE 2 Jun (M. Passman).

Western Sandpiper: arr JBWE 22 Jul (R. Norton); max 7 Jam Bay 30 Aug (ABk).

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 400 CCP 1 Aug (K&SF).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr Jam Bay 25 Aug (A. Consler).

American Woodcock: max 6 FBF 13 Jul (H. Lopes).

Spotted Sandpiper: 1 CJC 8 Jun; max 10 WPP 8 Jul (ACi).

Solitary Sandpiper: max 3 FBF 17 Aug (T. Preston); 3 Marine P KING 23 Aug (PPau, M. Yuan); and 3 Bronx Zoo 30 Aug (T. Olson).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 48 Jam Bay 5 Aug (DGo), very low.

Willet: 60 CJC 8 Jun.

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 CJC 8 Jun.

Wilson's Phalarope: NB 4-5 Jun (A. Burke et al.); 2 Jerome Res, BRON 14-17 Aug (PHo, mob).

Red-necked Phalarope: SPCP 2 Aug (A. Perkins).

Parasitic Jaeger: 4 reps RMSP: 19 Jun (K&SF), 29 Jun (JGI), 26 Aug (SSM), 28 Aug (MMcB et al.); GGI 26 Jun (MSche); L Mtk In10 Jul (FD); MPT 7 Aug (FD).

Bonaparte's Gull: Mtk near offshore waters 12 Jun (FD); GKP 10 Jul (EJ); SPCP 24 Aug (K. Arvin); HSP 24 Jul (KT); PlumbB 11 Aug (G. Keri, R. Manian, D. Hrehowsik); Seaside Wildlife P, RICH 16 Aug (ACi).

Laughing Gull: 369 CJC 8 Jun, ON; colony continues in Great South Bay.

Ring-billed Gull: 38 CJC 8 Jun.

Herring Gull: 272 CJC 8 Jun, ON.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: numerous through season, exclusively along s shore of LI, from Coney I, KING to Mtk. QUEE max 3 BPt 6 Aug (DGo, PPau, SSi) & 20 Aug (PPau); NASS max 13 JBWE 9 Jun (C. Thomas); 39 CJC 8 Jun; overall max 42 RMSP 25 Jun (PPau); 12 RMSP 5 Jul (PDom, D. Futuyma, JGI), max for Jul; 29 Old Inlet 4 Aug (PJL, SSM), max for e SUFF.

Great Black-backed Gull: 173 CJC 8 Jun, ON.

BRIDLED TERN: ad GGI 8 Jun-17 Aug (JDC), fourth summer present; TC 4 Aug (JSh, MSche, AnW).

Least Tern: 335 CJC 8 Jun, NE.

Gull-billed Tern: 4 NB & vic. through Jun & Jul; Jam Bay 4 Aug (L. DeMarco, JM); PlumbB 11 Aug (D. Hrehowsik, R. Manian); CCP 25 Jul (K&SF), rare SUFF.

Caspian Tern: well reported but exclusively along s shores of SI and LI; 2 Old Inlet 7 Jun (NG); 2 HSP 10 Jun (PJL); arr southbound RMSP 22 Jul (KF, K. Kleinpeter, SSM); ca. 14 reps of 1-2 inds 30 Jul though 31 Aug.

Black Tern: at least 8 sites 3 Jun-7 Jul, all outer coast from NB to Southampton, SUFF, except GGI 30 Jun (L. Beausoleil); many reps mid Aug through, max 25 Nap Harbor 17 Aug (C. Gangemi, M. Stokowski).

Roseate Tern: widely rep Orient and Nap and eastward, related to GGI mega-colony: max 3,000 various dates (JDC); 2 Maidstone P, SUFF 22 Jun (A. Lusty) recall the colony at nearby Sammy's Beach; relatively well-reported westward this season, too, e.g 14 CMB 18 Jun (TS), many for so far west on the North Shore; 4 NB 1-16 Jun, with singles there to 6 Jul (F&SM); 7 RMSP 8 Jun (PJL et al.), CJC; 6 Old Inlet 29 Jun (D. Rogers); and smaller numbers eastward at Shinn, Sagg, etc.

Common Tern: 372 CJC 8 Jun, ON; max 18,000 GGI various Jun dates (JDC); apparent

longipennis NB 22 Jun (SSM, PJL, P. Post, S. Walter), ph.; *intro*.

ARCTIC TERN (R10): ad NB 1 Jun (T. Gabe, A Scott); 2 ads NB 2 & 3 Jun (MMcB, SSM et al.); ad NB 6 Jun (A. Burke, A. Collerton); SY South Line I 7 Jun (SP, SSM); second-summer type DP 8 Jun (PJL, SSM, PMo, A. Perkins), CJC.

Forster's Tern: 115 CJC 8 Jun.

Royal Tern: well reported along the south shores of Staten I and LI, max 93 Old Inlet 5 Aug (DF); three reps from western LI Sound: 4 PBP 24 Jul (R. Aracil), ad alt CMB 11 Jun (TS), and Old Field Pt 29 Aug (B. Marrs).

SANDWICH TERN: PlumbB 2 Jun (PPau et al.); Jam Bay 2 Jun (T. Winston et al.), probably same as prev; NB 17 Jun (PJL, SSM, Pat Martin).

Black Skimmer: max 750 NB 2 Jun (T. Healy).

LOONS-PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: CCP 5 Jun (NG), only rep.

Common Loon: 2 CJC 8 Jun; max 5 JBWE 17 Aug (J. Drucker, L. Fried).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: well-reported offshore, max 538 TC 4 Aug (AnW); many single-digit counts from SUFF ocean shore 11 Jun-early Jul, max 46 RMSP 29 Jun (JGI); notable sites include 6 NB 20 Jun (MMcB); 2 L Mth In 24 Jul (R. Lucier).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: HC 17 Aug (SSi et al.; SLP); 2 TC 4 Aug (JSh, MSche, AnW).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL (R10): 13 TC 4 Aug (JSh, MSche, AnW); SLP trip found small numbers at numerous sites along continental slope se from HC 22 Jul (DGo, SSi et al.); ca. 30 mi s Shinn 5 Jul (NB), notable over shallow shelf water.

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: 2 TC 4 Aug (JSh, MSche, AnW); 24 or more at 7 sites along HC, from shelf-break to deep water 22 Jul (DGo, SSi, et al.).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: 2 deep water beyond HC 22 Jul (DGo, SSi), SLP.

Cory's Shearwater: max 7 ca. 40 mi s Shinn 5 Jul (NB) and 6 RMSP 13 Jun (PJL, SSM); widely reported from usual SUFF ocean vantages and from shelf waters, but invariably in small numbers this season.

Sooty Shearwater: NB 21 Jun (SSi), furthest w; max counts just 2 each RMSP (13 Jun), MBI 4 Jun), and Shinn (13 Jun); max offshore 3 Mtk near offshore waters 12 Jun (FD); Mtk

near offshore waters 19 Jul (R. Valente et al.), last.

Great Shearwater: NB 2 Jun (SSI), notably far w; widely rep from usual ocean vantages and offshore trips, but in smaller numbers (<8) except for one exception; 7 RMSP 21 Jun (K&SF, SSM), max from shore; 43 ca. 40 mi s Shinn 5 Jul (NB), max.

Manx Shearwater: off Shinn 8 Jun (JSh, AnW); ca. 40 mi. s Shinn 5 Jul (NB); Mtk near offshore waters 10 Jul (FD); HC 22 Jul (DGo, SSi et al.; SLP); Sagg 25 Aug (PMo, PJL, SSM); RMSP 26 Aug (SSM), only reps.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER (R10): two singles over deep water beyond HC 22 Jul (DGo, SSi et al.), SLP; TC 4 Aug (JSh, MSche, AnW).

BROWN BOOBY: HSP 28 Jul (V. Glasser, ph.); Freeport 14 Aug (M. Albanese); Mecox Bay SUFF 23 Aug (TWB, GB, D. Schulman); RMSP 26 Aug (SSM); *intro*.

Northern Gannet: 1 CJC 8 Jun; max 25 RMSP 13 Jun (K&SF).

Double-crested Cormorant: 370 CJC 8 Jun, NY; max 800 CICP 1 Aug (DGo).

Great Cormorant: max 4 Orient Pt, SUFF 8 Jun (JSep).

Brown Pelican: Northport Stacks SUFF 5 Jun (K. Cannon), early and unus loc; 2 HSP 8 Jun (JGI), CJC, and 2 Shirley Marina SUFF 8 Jun (J. Rodler, early); South St Seaport, NEWY 28 Jun (A. Barnes), unus loc.; many reps of small numbers from s shores of RICH, NASS, and SUFF late Jun-mid Aug; max 6 CCP 12 Jul.

American Bittern: PBP 9 Jul (William M.); Bronx Ri Mouth 22 Jul.

Least Bittern: 3 River Rd, RICH 4 Jul (C. Barron); Oakwood Beach Marshes, RICH 19 Jun (ACi); 1-2 PBP 1 Jun-14 Jul (mob); Oakdale, SUFF 8 Jun (B. Bomkamp, MMcB, TS), CJC; Arshamomaque Pres, SUFF 7 Jun-4 Aug (JSep, mob); near Mtk, SUFF two dates in Jun (TS et al.).

Great Blue Heron: 6 CJC 8 Jun; max 14 Lemon Cr, RICH 31 Jul (ACi).

Great Egret: 92 CJC 8 Jun; max 122 Ketcham's Cr, SUFF (26 Aug (EMu).

Snowy Egret: 33 CJC 8 Jun; max 190 Willow Pd NASS 15 Aug (BF).

Little Blue Heron: 1 CJC 8 Jun; max 8 Miller Field, RICH 30 Jul (ACi).

Tricolored Heron: 2 CJC 8 Jun; max 3 Captree Marshes, SUFF 18 Jul (PDom, DF).

Cattle Egret: East Ri, Greenpoint, KING 24 Jun (J. Bryant); Marine P, KING 31 Aug (R. Payne).

Green Heron: 5 CJC 8 Jun; max 6 Shirley Marina CP (SUFF) 28 Jun (K. Kleinpeter).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 7 CJC 8 Jun; max 22 Avalon P and Pres SUFF 18 Aug (PDom et al.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: max 20 Plumb 1st St, near Marine P, KING 22 Jun (G. Keri).

Glossy Ibis: 60 CJC 8 Jun; max 50 Captree Marshes SUFF 6 Jul (C. Darmstadt).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Captree Marshes 13-14 Jun (TWB, GB, et al.).

Black Vulture: many reps from RICH, NEWY, and BRON; max 5 IHP 10 Aug (L. LaBella); Uniondale, SUFF 12 Jun (MMcB) and Northville SUFF 2 Jul (MLL), only LI reps.

Turkey Vulture: widely rep all 5 NYC boroughs and parts of e SUFF; max at least 33 Northville roost Jul through (MLL); 8 Jam Bay 26 Aug (C. Gordon) & 8 Orient Pt, SUFF 24 Jun (E. Schumann); rep sparsely from n NASS and nw SUFF; largely absent from s NASS and sw SUFF, including barrier beaches; continues to increase.

Osprey: 172 CJC 8 Jun, ON; max 61 Elizabeth A. Morton NWR, SUFF 16 Aug (C. Gangemi); still increasing!

MISSISSIPPI KITE: CR 8 Jul (ACi); Hallockville SP, SUFF 4 Aug (S. Biasetti).

Northern Harrier: 48 reports on eBird representing perhaps 25-30 different birds 4 Jun thru, majority from Aug, mostly of single inds, and from all counties except RICH and BRON. Highlights inc max 5 Louse Pt Beach SUFF 10 Jul (M. Doyle); GGI 5, 22, 24 Aug (JDC); Northport SUFF 23 Aug (N. Klein), only north shore LI report; IHP 26 Aug (J. Drucker), only NEWY report.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: arr PBP 25 Aug (J. Rothman) and Gilgo Beach SUFF 27 Aug (SSM).

Cooper's Hawk: 1 CJC; ubiquitous; reported from all counties and all geographical/geological sub-regions, including the barrier beaches.

Bald Eagle: 5 CJC 8 Jun, FL; ubiquitous; no longer unexpected anywhere in the Region at any date. Reported from all counties and all geographical/geological sub-regions, including the barrier beaches.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Sands Pt Pres, NASS 9 Jun (R. Young); 4 CRSP 8 Jun (K&SF), pair with young (NY) CJC, continuing from spring; last rep 13 Aug (V. Glasser).

Broad-winged Hawk: Noyac SUFF yard 1 Jul and earlier (B. Moore), calling; rare breeder in Region; arr PBP 25 Aug (PHo); CLP 27 Aug (H. Fischer); Fort Tryon P, NEWY 29 Aug (D. Barrett); Gardiner CP SUFF 31 Aug (MSche).

Red-tailed Hawk: 13 CJC 8 Jun.

Barn Owl: Jam Bay (mob) and T Hempstead marshes NASS (J. Zarudsky); known breeding areas.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 8 CJC 8 Jun.

Great Horned Owl: missed on CJC.

Barred Owl: 2 Fishers I SUFF 7 Jun, one here 10 Jun (F. Marenghi, J. Dwyer).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Fuchs Pd Pres SUFF 4 Jun (TS); LaSalle Military Academy, 8 Jun (BF, MMcB, TS), CJC; Brookside CP 8 Jun (MMcB, TS), CJC; Ludlow Cr, 8 Jun (BF, MMcB), CJC; Makamah Pres, SUFF 28 Jul (TS); *intro*.

Belted Kingfisher: 1 CJC 8 Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Robert Cushman Murphy CP SUFF 1 Jun-29 Aug (mob), seen entering and leaving nest hole; 3 BNL 28 Jun (EL), where seen in last yr or two; 2 CRSP 14 Jun-11 Jul (Pat Martin, mob); 414 E. 52nd St NEWY 24 Aug (A Farnsworth, ph); Port Ryerson NEWY 29 Aug (M. Agüeros); Owls Head P KING 30 Aug (R. Manian, mob).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 71 CJC 8 Jun incl single site max 32 BLSP & vic. (R. Berlingeri).

Downy Woodpecker: 34 CJC 8 Jun incl single site max 9 BLSP & vic. 8 Jun (R. Berlingeri).

Hairy Woodpecker: 14 CJC 8 Jun; max 11 Manhasset NASS 9 Jun (SP).

Northern Flicker: 28 CJC 8 Jun; max 17 Manhasset NASS 31 Aug (SP).

Pileated Woodpecker: High Rock P, RICH 3 Jun (M. Shanley), only rep.

American Kestrel: reports in eBird too numerous to itemize here, spanning the entire season and concentrated heavily in NEWY and KING, very few elsewhere; max 9 52nd St. Manhattan 24 Aug during morning flight survey (A. Farnsworth); cluster of reports around the EPCAL area 2 Jun-6 Jul, known breeding site.

Merlin: JBSP 2 Jun (MMcB), unus date; several reps well before widespread arrival 24 Aug: GGI 4-5 Aug (JDC); Dune Rd 11 Aug (SS, R. Valente); and CP 18 Aug (J. Wooten).

Peregrine Falcon: 3 CJC 8 Jun.; ubiquitous throughout NYC and widely rep NASS and SUFF.

Monk Parakeet: 7 CJC 8 Jun, ON.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: 59 CJC 8 Jun, including single-site max 27 CRSP (K&SF).
Eastern Kingbird: 30 CJC 8 Jun; max 862 CICP 30 Aug (DGo); 307 RMSP 30 Aug (SSM et al.), heavy movement that day.
GRAY KINGBIRD: SPCP 21 Jul (C. Robertson, ph.).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: last northbound CP 1 Jun (mob) and CRSP 1 Jun (KF); numerous southbound reps w R10 20-31 Aug; three SUFF reps: RMSP 10 Aug (TD, PMo); Caumsett SP SUFF 25 Aug (K&SF); RMSP 30 Aug (K&SF).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: 33 CJC 8 Jun, including single-site max 17 (CRSP (K&SF).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 CP 1 Jun; others thru 8 Jun; APEC 19 Jun (J. Wolf), late; arr FBF 16 Aug (M. Yuan).
Acadian Flycatcher: last northbound WPP 7 Jun (E&J Jacobson); Manorville SUFF 9 Jun (PDom); West Hills CP SUFF 20 Jun (BF); 2 HG 27 Jun-2 Aug (S. Biasetti, T. Moran, mob).
Alder Flycatcher: 1 CJC 8 Jun; HSP 14 Jun (L. Nasta); Southold, SUFF 15 Jun (JSep), latest.
Willow Flycatcher: 48 CJC 8 Jun; max 9 RMSP 8 Jun (SMu).
Least Flycatcher: Manorville, SUFF 4 Jun (A. Collerton), last northbound; arr PBP 26 Jul (M. Ryan).
Eastern Phoebe: 3 CJC 8 Jun, FY.
White-eyed Vireo: 8 CJC 8 Jun; max 8 FBF 30 Aug (H. Lopes).
Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 Wolf Swamp Pres, SUFF 14 Jun (FD), scarce breeder in Region.
Warbling Vireo: 37 CJC 8 Jun.
Red-eyed Vireo: 97 CJC 8 Jun, including single-site max 31 CRSP (K&SF).
Blue Jay: 110 CJC 8 Jun, CF.
American Crow: 55 CJC 8 Jun; difficult to assess maxima due to lack of critical attention by observers, but very few convincing counts this season >10.
Fish Crow: 109 CJC 8 Jun; max 200 Miller Field, RICH 23 Aug (ACi).
Common Raven: 2 CJC 8 Jun; max 7 BNL 28 Jun (EL); continues to increase; Reported from multiple sites in all counties, representing all major geographical/geological sub-regions, including many reps from barrier beaches.
Horned Lark: not recorded CJC; max 14 Cartwright Shoal, Gardiners I, SUFF 21 Jul (AnW); declining as breeder in Region.

Purple Martin: 62 CJC 8 Jun, ON; max 212 RMSP 10 Aug (TD, PMo, TS).

Tree Swallow: 148 CJC 8 Jun, ON; max 1402 Arshomomaque Pres, SUFF 19 Aug (JSep).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 11 CJC 8 Jun.

Bank Swallow: max 120 GKP 29 Jun (JRG).

Cliff Swallow: breeding activity PBP, APEC, and possibly other in BRON; southbound flight unusually heavy this season, but almost exclusively along outer shore, from CICP to Shinn; arr CCP 21 Jul (PJL, SSM, L. Nasta); high counts include: 21 RMSP 10 Aug (TD, PMo, TS), 59 RMSP 23 Aug (SSM); 122 RMSP 24 Aug (MMCB); 11 RMSP 30 Aug (SSM et al.).

Barn Swallow: 370 CJC 8 Jun, N; max 1200 RMSP 24 Aug (K&SF, B. Travis).

Black-capped Chickadee: 34 CJC 8 Jun, FL.

Tufted Titmouse: 40 CJC 8 Jun.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: GGI 8-15 Jun (JDC); Barrett Beach, FINS 8 Jun (M. Adams et al.); West Village, NEWY 23 Jun (T. Olson); RMSP 22 Jul (SSM); Nap 5 Aug (FD); Rockland Ave, RICH 16 Aug.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 7 CJC 8 Jun.

Brown Creeper: HG 29 Jun (MSche et al.) & 7 Jul (JGI).

House Wren: 46 CJC 8 Jun, ON.

Marsh Wren: 25 CJC 8 Jun.

Carolina Wren: 130 CJC 8 Jun, incl single-site max 28 HSP (TD).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 58 CJC 8 Jun, FL, incl single-site max 24 CRSP (K&SF).

Eastern Bluebird: 4 CJC 8 Jun, FY.

Veery: 8 CJC 8 Jun, all CRSP (K&SF).

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: Calvert Vaux P, KING 1 Jun (AxW).

Hermit Thrush: 3 two sites ca. BNL 27-28 Jun (EL); max 10 HG 30 Jun (MMCB).

Wood Thrush: 2 CJC 8 Jun; max 14 Manhasset NASS 30 Jun (SP), significant breeding pop for w LI.

American Robin: 468 CJC 8 Jun, CF.

Gray Catbird: 465 CJC 8 Jun.

Brown Thrasher: 5 CJC 8 Jun.

Northern Mockingbird: 95 CJC 8 Jun.

European Starling: 441 CJC 8 Jun, FL; max 420 Swan Ri Pres, SUFF 1 Aug (MMCB).

Cedar Waxwing: 132 CJC 8 Jun, ON; max 132 RMSP 30 Aug (K&SF).

House Sparrow: 170 CJC 8 Jun, ON.

House Finch: 32 CJC 8 Jun; max 40 CP 23 Aug (E. Gaillard).

Purple Finch: Setauket, SUFF 9-27 Jun (PDom), conjunctivitis; CCP 27 Jul BBo, MMcB, J. Ortiz, TS), unus date.

Red Crossbill: Robert Cushman Murphy P SUFF, cont from spring, last **10 Jun** (K. Klecan).

European Goldfinch: Jam Bay 8 Jun (PPau); 2 PP 5 Jun (R. Campos-Ramirez, R. Osickova); PP 15 Jun (T. Alleva).

American Goldfinch: 65 CJC 8 Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS- CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 210 CJC 8 Jun.

Chipping Sparrow: 96 CJC 8 Jun.

Field Sparrow: 2 CJC 8 Jun, S7; max 10 Pine Meadow CP, SUFF 12 Jun (K. Cashman).

Vesper Sparrow: Riverside Drive, Riverhead SUFF 6 Jul (J. Bohrer), only report.

Lark Sparrow: arr PBP 19 Aug (PHo); RMSP 24 Aug through (PMo, SSM, mob).

Savannah Sparrow: breeding strongholds: max 15 FKP 30 Aug (JRG, S. Curley), possibly inc southbound/post-dispersal inds, and 10 from nearby Brookfield P 24 Jun (D. Jordet); max 10 Shirley Chisholm SP KING and vicinity 5 Jul (JM), CF; max 6 EPCAL and vicinity 24 Jul (SST), add'l reports from here of 1-2 birds various dates 9 Jun and 29 Jun. Other reports indicating likely breeding: 1-3 FBF 13, 14, 17 Jul, singing (mob), and 4 here 27 Jul (T. Preston); 3 Saltmarsh Nature Center KING 6 Jul (T. Coughlan), one here 2 Aug (JM). Other interesting reports: 1-2 Plumb Beach KING various dates 3-20 Aug; 2 JamBay 18 Jul (G. Lam); CRSP 22 Jun (SF); 3 Southold farm SUFF 9 Jun (JSep). Southbound migrs/post dispersal inds widely reported in Aug.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 breeding strongholds: max 20 FKP 30 Aug, 5 HY b (JRG, S. Curley); max 11 EPCAL 1 Jun (MMcB) and 11 on 9 Jun (JSep), many other reports from nearby in the Calverton area; other interesting reports: Gabreski Airport SUFF 27 Jun (SSI, PPau), where poss breeding; Hither Hills SP SUFF 5 Jun (JGI).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW (R10): FKP 30 Aug (JRG, S. Curley), very rare.

Seaside Sparrow: 62 CJC 8 Jun, incl single-site max 39 West Sayville GC SUFF (BBo et al.).

Nelson's Sparrow: Captree Is SUFF 9 Jun (PJI), CJC; probably under-detected in northbound migr.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: 88 CJC 8 Jun, incl single-site max 63 West Sayville GC (BBo et al.).

Song Sparrow: 220 CJC 8 Jun, FY.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Bryant P NEWY 1 & 17 Jun (N. Paulson); CP 4 Jun.

Swamp Sparrow: max 3 PBP 7 Jun (TWB, GB) & 24 Jul (R. Aracil).

White-throated Sparrow: PlumbB 8 Jun (T. Preston), very unus date away from urban traps; 1-4 inds thru early Jun from >12 parks in KING and 3 Bronx Zoo 3 Jun (N. Paulson).

Dark-eyed Junco: Nissequogue Ri SP SUFF 2 Jun (J. Garzero), very late; identified as Slate-colored; Mashomack Pres, SUFF 28 Jul (B. Koblmiller); GGI 29 Jul (JDC); Jam Bay 4 Aug.

Yellow-breasted Chat: arr FBF 17 Aug (H. Lopes); CP 23 Aug; Lido Beach Passive Pres NASS 23 Aug (P. Ribolow).

Bobolink: max 180 CICP 30 Aug (DGo).

Eastern Meadowlark: max 7 EPCAL 12 Jun (R. Haines).

Orchard Oriole: 6 CJC 8 Jun; max 13 Manhasset NASS 9 Jun (SP).

Baltimore Oriole: 94 CJC 8 Jun; max 59 RMSP 30 Aug (SSM).

Red-winged Blackbird: 682 CJC 8 Jun; max 825 CICP 11 Aug (DGo).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 75 CJC 8 Jun; max 500 Nassau County CC 29 Aug (BF).

Common Grackle: 433CJC 8 Jun, CF; max 4657 Stonebridge 31 Aug (PDom et al.).

Boat-tailed Grackle: 55 CJC 8 Jun.

Ovenbird: 19 CJC 8 Jun; max 19 HG 30 Jun (MMcB).

Worm-eating Warbler: max 3 CP 17 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 3 CLP 27 Jul (C. Barron); RMSP 10 Aug (PMo, SSM, TS, et al.), rarely detected barrier beach.

Northern Waterthrush: max 22 RMSP 11 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: Far Rockaway, QUEE 21 Aug (D. Lichter); CP 31 Aug (R. Lugo, ph), male showing some *cyanoptera* introgression.

Blue-winged Warbler: 6 CJC 8 Jun.

Black-and-white Warbler: 4 CJC 8 Jun; max 12 CICP 30 Aug (DGo).

Prothonotary Warbler: Mashmomack Pres SUFF 6 Jun (P. Dandridge), plausible breeding site; CICP 10 Jun (DGo, S. Blodgett); CP 16-18 Aug (J. Suzuki, mob); GGI 20 Aug (JDC).

Connecticut Warbler: Southards Pd P SUFF 1 Jun (C. Cammarota), audio; extremely rare in spring; *intro*.

Mourning Warbler: northbound migrants in NYC parks through mid Jun; Watch Hill, Fire I, SUFF 1 Jun (PMo, TS), only SUFF; southbound migr arr PBP 25 Aug (PHo).

Kentucky Warbler: FBF 2-20 Jun (H. Lopes et al.), audio; *intro*.

Common Yellowthroat: 184 CJC 8 Jun, incl single-site max 47 HSP (TD).

Hooded Warbler: West Hills CP, SUFF 7 Jun (BF), plausible nesting site; only Jun rep; arr CP 9 Aug (T. Winston et al.).

American Redstart: 12 CJC 8 Jun; max 20 GwC 24 Aug.

Northern Parula: Grace Estate, SUFF 23 Jun (JGi), male singing; Amagansett 9 Jun (K. Rubinstein) and 23-24 Jun (JGl, JGi), males singing at sites ca. 1 km apart.

Magnolia Warbler: max 4 CP 31 Aug (R. Serio).

Bay-breasted Warbler: CP 1 Jun; CP 31 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: 2 CVP 1 Jun (AxW); 2 CP 1 Jun; 2 APP 31 Aug (P. Reisfeld).

Yellow Warbler: 259 CJC 8 Jun, CF; max 143 RMSP 10 Aug TD, PMo, TS et al.).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: no reps of birds on territory; max 6 CP 31 Aug (R Serio).

Blackpoll Warbler: 5 CP 1 Jun (J. Spindel); 5 PP 2 Jun (J. Dean).

Pine Warbler: 30 CJC 8 Jun; max 14 Nap 4 Jul (JGi).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Bensonhurst P, KING 2 Jun (L. DeMarco, aud.), unus date/loc; Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF 2 Jun (SF) through 26 Jul (L. Nasta), including CJC 8 Jun (PDom, DF, K. Kleinpeter), S7; Manorville, SUFF 9 Jun (SSM, aud.) through 23 Jun, singing male from spring.

Prairie Warbler: 15 CJC 8 Jun; max 16 West Meadows Wetlands Pres SUFF 10 Jul (PDom et al.).

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 3 Old Filed, SUFF 30 Aug (M. Schrimpf).

Canada Warbler: max 6 CP 23 Aug (J. Wooten).

Wilson's Warbler: arr widely in NYC parks 24 Aug.

Summer Tanager: imm m Jam Bay 2 Jun (mob); imm m CP 2 Jun (D. Barrett, C. Albanese, mob); Hidden Ponds Preserves & Trails EH SUFF 21 Jul (A. Collerton).

Scarlet Tanager: 3 CJC 8 Jun; max 6 BNL 27 Jun (EL).

Northern Cardinal: 130 CJC 8 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 4 Hallockville SP, SUFF 8 Jun (S. Biasetti); not recorded CJC.

Blue Grosbeak: scarce but increasing breeder on LI; max 3 Calverton area 5 Jul (JSep), other reports of 1-2 inds (m & f) 1 Jun-12 Aug in this area, a breeding stronghold;; max 3 FKP 10 Aug (mob); 1-2 Veterans Rd W RICH 19 dates 1 Jun-28 Aug (ACi); ad m Arthur Kill Rd RICH 7 Jun (A. Burke), breeding code S7 noted; singing m CRSP 8 Jun (K&SF), CJC; m Babylon 8 Jun (R. Berlingeri), CJC; 1-2 Mt. Loretto RICH 16 Jun-30 Aug (mob); WPP 19 Jul and 2 here 26 Jul (ACi); 2 (ad m, f type) Manhasset NASS 31 Jul (S. Perreault), noted as prob post-breeding dispersal; f type RMSP 10 Aug (TD, PMo, TS).

Indigo Bunting: 18 CJC 8 Jun.

Dickcissel: CICP 30 Aug (DGo); at least 4 RMSP: 1 Aug (SSM); 10 Aug (SSM et al.), possibly more than one; 11 Aug (K&SF); and 29-30 Aug (SSM et al.), possibly more than one.



REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; alt – alternate plumage; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; Co – County; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; Mt – Mountain; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pres – Preserve; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

POSSIBLE: H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

PROBABLE: S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

CONFIRMED: PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

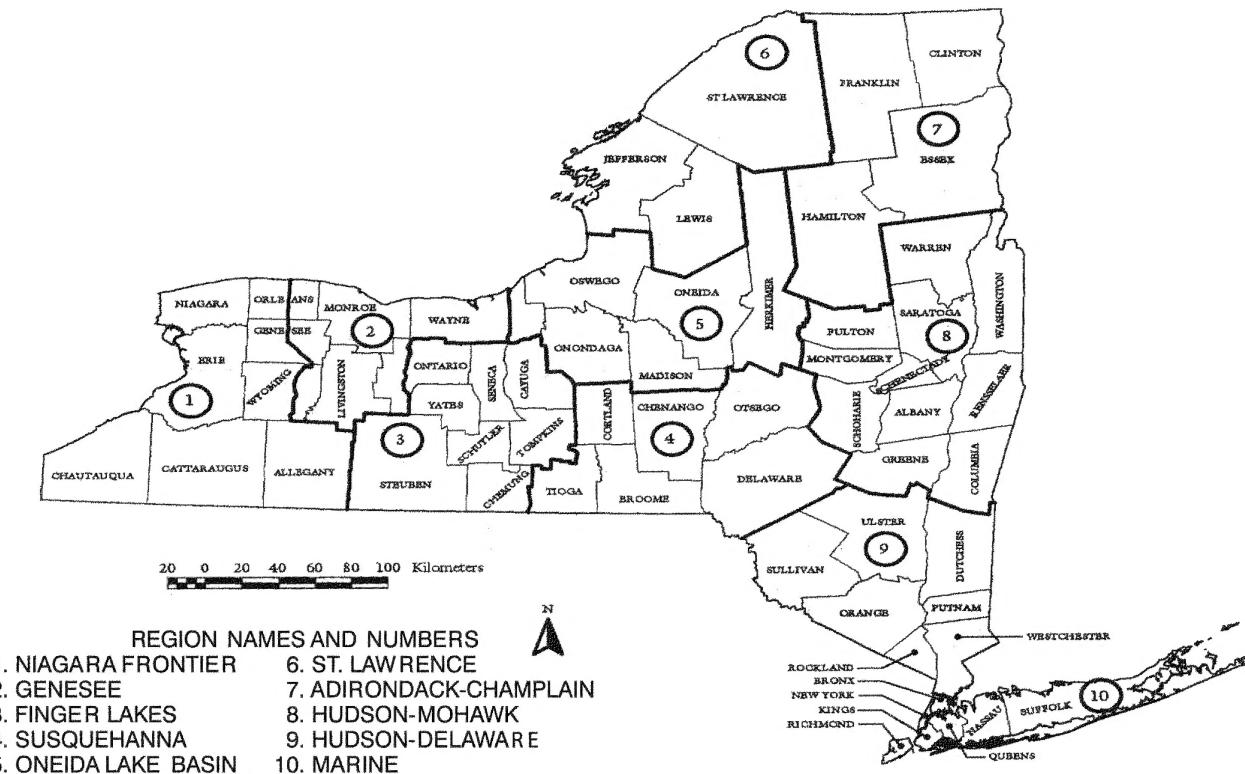
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.



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